

## Current Affairs: 22.03.2022

### 2nd INDIA AUSTRALIA VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison held the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit during which they reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global developments.



#### About:

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established during the 1st Virtual Summit in June 2020. Prime Minister Modi expressed his satisfaction at the enhanced scope of the relationship which now covers such as trade and investments, defence and security, education and innovation, science and technology, critical minerals, water management, new and renewable energy technology, Covid-19 related research, etc. Prime Minister Modi thanked Scott Morrison for the special gesture in returning 29 ancient artefacts to India. These artefacts comprise sculptures, paintings and photographs, across centuries, some dating back to the 9th-10th century, from different parts of India. The artefacts include 12th century Chola bronzes, 11th-12th century Jain sculptures from Rajasthan, 12th-13th century sandstone Goddess Mahisasuramardini from Gujarat, 18th-19th century paintings and early gelatin silver photographs. A Joint Statement was issued on the occasion covering various aspects of the deepening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both sides also agreed to establish annual summits between the Prime Ministers under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, thus adding a special dimension to the bilateral relationship.

### GULF BUSINESS SUMMIT

To instil confidence and familiarise with “growing conducive situation in J&K for investments”, delegates representing 33 companies from the UAE, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia have arrived in Srinagar to turn Rs. 3,000 crore MoUs, signed earlier this year, into a reality.

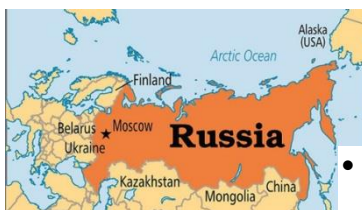


#### About:

- The delegates will attend the “Gulf Business Summit” on March 22 and discuss exploring investment opportunities in J&K in different sectors. This is for the first time an investor from Saudi Arabia has shown interest in J&K. The J&K government had signed the MoUs in January with the UAE-based companies, including industrial giants like Emaar, Lulu, MATU Investments, Al Maya Group, GL Employment Brokerage LLC,

Century Financial, IT giant Noon e-commerce etc. Around 16,000 kanals (1,999.9 acres) land bank has already been opened for investments in Kashmir.

### INDIA-RUSSIA ENERGY TIES



Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told the Rajya Sabha that India imported less than 1% of its crude oil requirement from Russia.

#### About:

- He was responding to a query whether the new energy cooperation agreements, including a contract for Rosneft signed in December 2021, may be impacted by the Ukraine-Russia conflict and whether the exit of British Petroleum from Rosneft

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impacted the Indian Oil Corporation's investment. Puri observed that Indian oil companies had invested \$16 billion in Russia, and some of those investments were profitable. For example, Sakhalin-1 where OVL [ONGC Videsh Ltd.] has a 20% stake, the investment of \$337 million has led to an overall revenue of \$3.7 billion and we still have 20 years of assets left.

## NATIONAL AIDS AND STDs CONTROL PROGRAMME

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the National AIDS and STDs Control Programme, a scheme funded by the Centre from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with an outlay of Rs. 15,471.94 crore by approving Phase 5 of the programme.

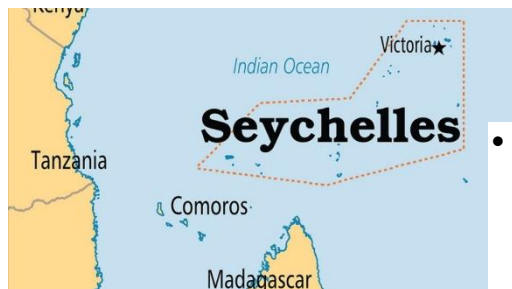


### About:

The national AIDS response was initiated by the Government of India in 1992 with the launch of the first phase of the National AIDS and STD Control Programme. Since then, four phases of NACP have been successfully completed. The Phase-IV (Extension) of NACP concluded on March 31, 2021. The national AIDS response under NACP is globally considered to be an extremely successful programme. The annual new HIV infections in India has declined by 48 per cent against the global average of 31 per cent (the baseline year of 2010). Due to the efforts under the scheme, the HIV prevalence in India continues to be low with an adult HIV prevalence of 0.22%, the government stated.

## EXERCISE LAMITIYE – 2022

The 9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) is being conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles from 22 March to 31 March 22.



### About:

Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 is a biennial training event which is being conducted in Seychelles since 2001. Exercise LAMITIYE with Seychelles is significant in terms of growing security concerns in the Indian Ocean Region. The 10 days long joint exercise will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and culminate with a two days validation exercise.

### Do you know?

- Seychelles is an archipelagic island country consisting of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean at the eastern edge of the Somali Sea.

## CHECHNYA

Ramzan Kadyrov, the Head of the Chechen Republic recently shared a video of his forces purportedly in Mariupol – a besieged port city where Russians have been wreaking havoc by bombing civilian targets.

**About:** Chechnya is a republic of Russia. It is situated in the North Caucasus of Eastern Europe, close to the Caspian Sea. The republic forms a part of the North Caucasian Federal District, and shares land borders with the country of Georgia to its south. It is home to the indigenous Chechens, part of the Nakh peoples, and of primarily Muslim faith. Grozny is the capital and largest city. Following the First Chechen War of 1994–1996 with Russia, Chechnya gained de facto independence, although de jure it remained a part of Russia. Moscow's forces restored Russian federal control in the Second Chechen War of 1999–2009.

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## SECTION 144 (CrPC)

Section 144 has been imposed in Bodhan town in Telangana after protests turned violent over the installation of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at Ambedkar junction in the town by the Shiv Sena and BJP workers.



### About:

- Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973 generally prohibits public gathering. It authorises the Executive Magistrate of any state or territory to issue an order to prohibit the assembly of four or more people in an area. According to the law, every member of such 'unlawful assembly' can be booked for engaging in rioting. The maximum punishment for such act is three years. Moreover, obstructing police from breaking up an unlawful assembly is a punishable offence as well. Section 144 also restricts

carrying any sort of weapon in that area where it has been imposed and people can be detained for violating it.

- Section 144 is imposed in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger of some event that has the potential to cause trouble or damage to human life or property. No order under Section 144 shall remain in force for more than two months but the state government can extend the validity for two months and maximum up to six months. It can be withdrawn at any point of time if situation becomes normal.

Background: Section 144 was used for the first time in 1861 by the British Raj, and thereafter became an important tool to stop all nationalist protests during the Freedom Struggle. However, the use of the section in Independent India remains controversial as very little has changed.

### Section 144 vs Curfew:

Section 144 is generally prohibitory in nature. It restricts from public gathering, but doesn't bar it all together. A curfew, on the other hand, orders people to stay indoors for a specific period of time. So, the authorities can impose curfew for certain period of time (However, the authorities can also extend the curfew if the need be). One also needs a prior approval from the local police for moving out during curfew.

## MARCH HEATWAVE

**New Delhi recorded a temperature of over 38 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the hottest for March so far for the national capital.**

**About:** As winter transitions to spring with the northward march of the Sun post the winter solstice, maximum temperatures in India show a rising trend, starting from southern parts followed by central and northern India. March is the beginning of the summer season over India. During this month, the maximum heating zone runs along central India regions between Odisha and Gujarat. This year, the geographical expanse of the latest heatwave spell was unusually large. In addition to such a large area being under the influence of heatwaves, the latest spell was a prolonged one too.

**Reasons-** Along with seasonal transition, the lack of pre-monsoon showers has contributed to the overall heating. Hot winds from the deserts of northwest India also contribute to the soaring temperatures in central India regions.

## FINLANDIZATION

**It will soon be a month since Russia invaded Ukraine, and it remains unclear when and how the war might end. Among the scenarios that have been seen as potentially workable is the "Finlandization" of Ukraine.**

**About:** 'Finlandization' refers to the policy of strict neutrality between Moscow and the West that Finland followed during the decades of the Cold War. The principle of neutrality was rooted in the Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance (or YYA Treaty) that Finland signed with the USSR in

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April 1948. The 1948 treaty formed the basis of Helsinki-Moscow relations until 1992, when Finland signed a new agreement with post-Soviet Russia. It lay at the heart of

Finland's foreign policy doctrine especially when Juho Kusti Paasikivi (1946-56) and Urho Kekkonen (1956-82) were President, and is known in international relations studies as the "Paasikivi-Kekkonen line". From the perspective of Finland — whose capital Helsinki is situated just across the Gulf of Finland from St Petersburg (Leningrad) — the treaty protected it from being attacked or incorporated into the USSR like the Baltic and eastern European states. It allowed the country to pursue the path of democracy and capitalism while staying out of the conflict between the great powers.

## WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2022

**India ranks 136th in the World Happiness Report 2022, while Finland becomes the happiest country for the fifth consecutive year in the first World Happiness Report.**



### About:

- The top five countries in the list are from Europe. 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. The United States held the 16th spot in the happiest countries list. 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.

**Do you know?** The ranking is done on a three-year average based on surveys of 'Life Evaluation' conducted by Gallup World Poll which surveys around 1000 people from each country to evaluate their current life on a scale of 0-10. On this scale, 10 marks the best possible and 0 as the worst possible life. Further, six key variables GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption contribute to explaining life evaluations. 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).

Also, in the World Happiness Report 2022, special attention was given to specific daily emotions (the components of positive and negative affect) to better track how COVID-19 has altered different aspects of life.

## CYCLONE ASANI

**People living in coastal areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands were evacuated to safety as the archipelago experienced heavy rain and strong winds due to Cyclone Asani on Sunday.**



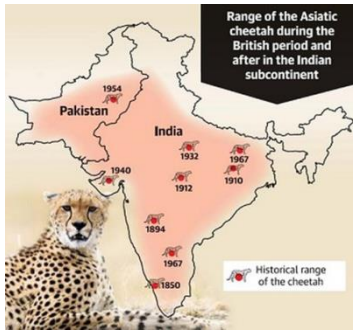
**About:** The depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal intensified first into a deep depression and later into a cyclonic storm. Shipping services between the islands and those connecting Chennai and Visakhapatnam have been stopped and fishermen have been warned not to venture into the sea as the year's first cyclonic storm neared the archipelago. A total of 68

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel have been deployed in Port Blair, and 25 each in Diglipur, Rangat and Hutbay areas. The system is expected to move towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar coasts.

## CHEETAH INTRODUCTION PLAN

**The cheetah, which became extinct in India after Independence, is all set to return with the Union Government launching an action plan.**

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**About:** According to the plan, about 50 of these big cats will be introduced in the next five years, from the Africa savannas, home to cheetahs, an endangered species. According to the Government, Kuno national park in Madhya Pradesh is ready to receive the cheetahs. The cheetahs are to be provided by the Cheetah Conservation Fund, an NGO, and not the Namibian government. Three to five cheetahs are expected to be part of the first group of cats and these are expected to arrive as early as May 2022 and released in the wild by August 15. It is recorded that the last cheetahs were shot in India in 1947, but there are credible reports of sightings of the cat till about 1967.

## Supreme court verdict of 2013

- The 2013 order of the Supreme Court quashed plans to introduce African cheetahs in India and more specifically at Kuno national park in Madhya Pradesh. African cheetahs are not required to perform the role of the top predator in these habitats when the site (Kuno) that they have identified already has a resident population of leopards, transient tigers and is also the site for the translocation of Asiatic lions as ordered by the Supreme Court