

Current Affairs:01/03.03.2022

Niti Aayog developing National Gender Index

NITI Aayog is in the process of developing a **National Gender Index**.

Objective of National Gender Index: It shall measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.

It will serve as a tool to map the progress of India's States and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change.

The information was released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan

The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated a newly developed '**Arogya Vanam**' at the **President's Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in New Delhi** on March 1, 2022.

The objective of this Arogya Vanam is **promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human body**.

The Vanam has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra. Spread in 6.6 acres areas, the Arogya Vanam consists of around 215 herbs and plants used for therapeutic purposes in Ayurveda. It also features water fountains, Yoga platform, water channel, lotus pond and a view point.

Ministry of Women & Child Development to Celebrate International Women's Day Week from 1st to 8th March

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** will celebrate the **International Women's Day week from 1st to 8th March 2022**. For this, the Ministry will organize various events and social media campaigns related to women's safety and empowerment.

India's first e-waste eco-park to come up in Delhi

The Delhi Government has planned to set up **India's first e-waste eco-park to handle increasing e-waste**.

The park is proposed to be built in **Narela industrial area in New Delhi**, across 20 acres area.

The park will recycle and re-manufacture e-waste in a safe and scientific manner.

It will include facilities for dismantling, segregating, refurbishing, storage, testing, plastic recycling and precious metal extraction.

India's first ambulance for street animals launched in Chennai

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

Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth launched the ambulance.

The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an on-board veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.

International Monsoons Project Office launched at IITM, Pune

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** at the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune** through virtual mode on the occasion of National Science Day on February 28, 2022.

The IITM, Pune is an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India.

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The IMPO has been launched for an initial period of **five years**.

Basic objective of IMPO is promoting knowledge sharing and capacity building in areas of **monsoon research**.

Japan and India renews the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) worth USD 75 billion

Japan and India have renewed the **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)** the size of which is **upto USD 75 billion**.

The actual Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) was **signed** between Bank of Japan and Reserve Bank of India **in 2018**.

What is Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA): The BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar. The interest rate charged in this case is fixed at the time of signing the agreement and hence it reduces the risk caused due to fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Govt approves 20% FDI in LIC via automatic route

The Union Cabinet has approved an **amendment to the FDI Policy** to allow **foreign direct investment (FDI) up to 20 percent under the “automatic route” in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**. This comes ahead of IPO of LIC.

Prior to this, there was no limit was prescribed for foreign investment in LIC. **The FDI ceiling for LIC has now been made at par with that of public sector banks**.

It must be noted that the **FDI limit in the insurance sector is 74 percent**. Last year it was raised from 49% to 74%.

NSO projects GDP growth for India in 2021-22 at 8.9% and in 2020-21 at 6.6%

National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the **second advance estimates** of national accounts. The GDP growth rate projection as per NSO for 2021-22 (FY22) and 2020-21 (FY21) is given below:

- **For 2021-22 (FY22)= 8.9% (earlier it was 9.2% in first advance estimates)**
- **For 2020-21 (FY21)= -6.6% (earlier it was -7.3%)**

Bank of Maharashtra has tied up with Mahagram to roll out the ‘Bank Sakhi’ project in Odisha

Bank of Maharashtra has partnered with **Mahagram (a fintech company)** to roll out the **‘Bank Sakhi’ project in Odisha**. Mahagram would provide the Bank of Maharashtra with financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion.

As part of this partnership, Mahagram has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

BharatATM platform is a rural banking platform that offers banking services to small merchants and customers through its assisted banking app. It was **launched by Mahagram in December 2020**.

HDFC Bank finances Asia’s largest waste to energy plant in Indore- Gobar-Dhan plant

HDFC Bank has partnered with **Indore Clean Energy Private Limited (ICEPL)** for the development of **Gobar-Dhan plant in Indore** under its Environmental, social, and governance (**ESG**) commitments. The 550-tonne capacity “Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant” was inaugurated by PM Modi in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on February 19, 2022. This is the **biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia**. It has been set up at a cost of Rs 150 crore.

Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd (ICEPL) is promoted by Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), which is the largest climate impact fund in India with anchor investors like NIIF & Government of UK.

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Madhabi Puri Buch appointed as Chairperson of Sebi for three years

Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new **chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**. She is the **first woman** to head the securities market regulator.

She has been appointed for a period of **three years with effect from March 01, 2022**.

Puri Buch succeeds Ajay Tyagi, whose five years tenure ends on February 28, 2022.

She is a former whole-time member of Sebi.

Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You) launched

Autobiography of MK Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was launched by Rahul Gandhi. The title of the book is "**Ungalil Oruvan**" which means "**One Among You**".

This is the first part of the autobiography that contains his early life experiences. Stalin is the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.

31st Southeast Asian Games to be held in Vietnam

The **31st Southeast Asian Games** will be held in **Vietnam** from May 12 to 23, 2022. It is the biggest sporting event of Southeast Asia and is a biennial event

The event was originally scheduled to take place in November 2021 however it was postponed due to the Covid pandemic.

Capital of Vietnam i.e Hanoi will be the main venue of the event.

Pooja Jatyan wins Silver at 2022 Para Archery World Championships in Dubai

Indian para archer **Pooja Jatyan** has won **Silver medal in the Recurve Women Finals at Para Archery World Championships 2022** in Dubai.

She lost to Petrilli Vincenza of Italy (7-3).

With this win, Pooja has become the **first Indian to win a silver medal in an individual section** of the Para World Championships.

India concluded its campaign with 2 Silver medals at the Championship.

Legendary West Indies Spinner Sonny Ramadhin Passes Away at 92

Former **West Indies cricketer Sonny Ramadhin**, who was a legendary spinner, has passed away. He was 92. The right-hand bowler was first of many West Indies cricketers of Indian origin.

He was part of the West Indies' team which won the country's first-ever Test match victory at Lords in England in 1950s.

Janaushadhi Diwas week to be observed from 1st March to 7th March 2022

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will organize the **Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022**.

On 7th March 2022 the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas will be celebrated.

Theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".

Objective of Janaushadhi Week and Day: To create awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.

Zero Discrimination Day 2022: 01 March

The **Zero Discrimination Day** is held every year on **1st of March**.

The day aims to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers.

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The Day was launched by Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 2014.



Theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022: **“Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”**

Finance Minister launches e-Bill system to enable paperless submission and digital processing of bills

The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched the **e-Bill system for Central Government Ministries**. The e-Bill system was launched on **the 46th Civil Accounts Day i.e March 02, 2022**.

Objective: The system will allow all vendors/suppliers of the central government to submit their bills/claims at anytime, from anywhere.

The e-Bill system has been **developed by the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) Division of Ministry of Finance**. The bills will be processed by **First-In-First-Out (FIFO) method**.

The system has been initially **rolled out in the nine Pay and Accounting Units of nine Ministries/Departments** and will be rolled out in other Ministries/Departments in a phased manner in 2022-23.

IAF to conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti at Pokharan range, Rajasthan

Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the **Exercise Vayu Shakti** that will take place at **Pokharan range in Jaisalmer** on March 7, 2022.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be the **Chief Guest** of this event. A total of **148 aircraft** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in this exercise. Rafale aircraft will participate for the first time in this exercise.

Exercise Vayu Shakti is organised by Indian Air Force **once in every three years**. The last Vayu Shakti Exercise took place in 2019.

NASA launches next-generation GOES-T satellite to track hazardous weather in western United States

The US space agency, **NASA**, successfully launched the third in a series of four next-generation weather satellites, **Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)**, from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida on March 01, 2022.

The satellite is named as **GOES-T**. Once the satellite gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from GOES-T to **GOES-18**.

GOES-T will be used by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.

Google and MeitY to train 100 Indian startups under Appscale Academy programme for making global apps & games

The **MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and **Google** have announced a **cohort of 100 early to mid-stage Indian startups** as a part of **Appscale Academy programme**.

Appscale Academy is a new growth and development programme for startups launched by MeitY and Google to help and train early- to mid-stage startups across India on building high-quality apps and games for a global audience.

These 100 startups were chosen from over 400 applications following an in-depth selection process.

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Under the six-month Appscale Academy programme, the 100 startups will be trained through a customised curriculum which includes virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, and mentorship sessions with local and global industry professionals.

India ranks 3rd, US tops in billionaire population globally: Knight Frank

India is ranked 3rd in terms of most number of **billionaires' population globally in 2021**, as per the **Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022**.

The list has been topped by the **United States (748) and China (554) respectively**.

The number of **ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs)** in India increased by 11% YoY in 2021 to 145 billionaires, the highest percentage growth in Asia Pacific (APAC) region.

UHNWIs are individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m or more (Rs 226 crore)

Akshaye Widhani named as CEO of Yash Raj Films

Akshaye Widhani has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Yash Raj Films**.

Yash Raj Films is one of India's biggest film production houses. **Aditya Chopra is the Chairman and MD** of Yash Raj Films.

Yash Raj Films was **founded by Yash Raj Chopra, in the year 1970**.

IISER's Physicist Professor Deepak Dhar becomes first Indian to be awarded Boltzmann Medal

Prof. Deepak Dhar, the Emeritus Professor at the **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune)** has been awarded the prestigious **Boltzmann Medal** for the year 2022.

Prof Dhar is the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal, for his **contribution in the field of 'Statistical Physics'**.

He is one of the two physicists selected for the award. He shares the medal with Prof. John J Hopfield of Princeton University, New Jersey.

The Boltzmann Medal is presented by the Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), once in 3 years, for contributions in the field of statistical physics..

Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m air pistol gold at ISSF World Cup in Cairo

Indian shooting ace **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won the **gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol event** at the ongoing **2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt** on March 01, 2022.

The silver medal has been won by Germany's Michael Schwald while Artem Chernousov of Russia claimed the bronze medal.

In the women's 10m air pistol section, **India's Esha Singh lost to Anna Korakaki of Greece to win the silver medal**.

Nikhat Zareen & Nitu wins gold for India at 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia

Indian boxers **Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg)** has won gold medals at the **73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament, held in Sofia, Bulgaria**.

The Indian contingent ended their campaign at the tournament with three medals including two golds and one bronze.

The bronze medal was won by **Nandini (+81kg)**

The 17-member Indian team consisted of seven men and 10 women.

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46th Civil Accounts Day celebrated on March 02, 2022

The **46th Civil Accounts Day** was celebrated on March 02, 2022, at Dr.

Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.

Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest at the event.

The Civil Accounts Day has been organised every year by the **Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)**, since its inception in 1976.

ICAS is one of the Civil Services of India. It comes under the **Department of Expenditure**, Union Ministry of Finance.

World Wildlife Day 2022: 03 March

The **World Wildlife Day** is observed every year on **March 3** to raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora.

Theme 2022: **“Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”**.

The day was proposed by Thailand and recognised in 2013 by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

March 3 has been chosen as it is the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

World Hearing Day 2022 : 3 March

The World Hearing Day is held on **3 March** each year by World Health Organisation (WHO).

The day aims to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.

Theme of World Hearing Day 2022: **“To hear for life, listen with care.”**