

Weekly One Liners 21st to 27th of March 2022

Neeraj Chopra wins Sportsman of the Year award: Sportstar Aces 2022

Tokyo Olympic gold medallist, **Neeraj Chopra** claimed the coveted '**Sportstar of the Year (Male)**' award at the **2022 Sportstar Aces Awards**. Weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu**, who claimed the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the '**Sportstar of the Year (Female)**' award. The Aces Awards celebrate the spirit of excellence in sport and hope to inspire our athletes and sportspersons to continue to strive to break new records and reach new pinnacles of glory.

Other awardee's in the list:

- **Lovlina Borgohain** (Sportswoman of the Year, Individual Sports),
- **Avani Lekhara** (Parathlete of the Year, Female),
- **Pramod Bhagat** (Special Recognition award),
- **Savita** (Sportswoman of the Year, Team Sports), and **Rupinder Pal Singh** (Sportsman of the Year, Team Sports).
- **Arif Khan** wins Special Recognition Award at Sportstar Aces 2022.
- Former Indian hockey team captain **Ajit Pal Singh** was conferred the 'Lifetime Achievement award. Ajit was part of two Olympic bronze-winning teams, including one at the 1972 Munich Games.

UN World Happiness Report 2022: India Ranks 136th

India has improved its rank by three spots to acquire **136th position** in the **United Nations' World Happiness Report** for the year 2022, which ranked 146 countries. In 2021, India's rank was **139**. **Finland** has topped the 2022 World Happiness Report, for the fifth continuous year. **Afghanistan** has been ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, at 146th position.

Top 10 countries of the 2022 World Happiness Report:

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Switzerland
5	The Netherlands
6	Luxembourg
7	Sweden
8	Norway
9	Israel
10	New Zealand

About the report:

- The 2022 World Happiness Report was released on March 18, 2022. It is the 10th edition of the report.
- The World Happiness Report is being published by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, since 2012, to rank countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
- The Report is based on two key ideas, (1) happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys and (2) identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries.

Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day Observed On 23rd March

Every year, the Nation was observed on **March 23rd** as **Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day)**. The day was observed to pay tribute to the death anniversary of the freedom fighters **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru**, who laid their lives for the freedom of India. Also, **30 January** is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of **Mahatma Gandhi**.

Why is Martyr's Day celebrated on 23rd March?

On March 23, three heroes of our nation were hanged to death, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar by the British. No doubt, they also sacrificed their lives for the welfare of our nation. These heroes fought for the welfare of people and sacrificed their lives for the same cause. For many young Indians, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev have become a source of inspiration. Even during British rule, their sacrifice urged many people to come forth and fight for their freedom. Therefore, in order to homage to the three of these revolutionaries, India has commemorated March 23 as Shaheed Diwas.

The story behind their sacrifice

They were hanged to death for assassinating **John Saunders**, a British police officer in 1928. They had mistook him for British police superintendent **James Scott**. It was Scott who had ordered lathi-charge, which eventually led to the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**.

National Affairs

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **Biplobi Bharat Gallery** at **Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata** on the occasion of **Shaheed Diwas**. The inauguration was done virtually via video conferencing. The purpose of this new gallery is to provide a holistic view of the events that led up to 1947 and highlight the important role played by the revolutionaries.
- **Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** stated that the Government has set a target of building **220 new airports by 2025**, citing the Civil Aviation industry as a critical component of India's economy.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** in collaboration with the **Youth Services and Sports department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh** is set to build India's first-ever **SAI National Centre of Excellence** to train athletes in Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla. This center is at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level.
- Union Minister of Women and Child Development, **Smriti Irani** inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, '**Bharat Bhagya Vidhata**' at **Red Fort in Delhi**. The Red Fort festival has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The ministry has collaborated with the Dalmia Bharat Group (DBG) to organise the event as DBG has adopted the Red Fort as its Monument Mitra.
The festival will commemorate the heritage, culture and diversity of every part of India.

States in the News

- The Governor of Haryana, **Bandaru Dattatraya** and Chief Minister of Haryana, **Manohar Lal Khattar** formally inaugurated the **35th edition** of the world-famous **Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Surajkund in Faridabad district of Haryana**. In 2022, the 'Theme State' in **Jammu & Kashmir and Uzbekistan** is the partner nation.
- Senior BJP leader **N Biren Singh** took the oath as **Chief Minister of Manipur** for a second consecutive five-year term on March 21, 2022. The ruling BJP party contested all 60 seats in the Manipur Assembly election in 2022 and won **32 seats**. Nongthombam (N) Biren Singh started his career as a footballer, then turned to journalism, before joining politics.

- **West Bengal** celebrated the '**Dol Utsav**' or '**Dol Jatra**', the festival of colours, marking the onset of the spring season. The festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Radha and celebrated on full moon day. It also marks the last festival of the year as per the Bengali calendar. In the Eastern region of India, the festival of spring is celebrated as **Dol Jatra, Dol Purnima, Dol Utsav, and Basanta Utsav**.
- **Bihar Diwas 2022 marks the 110th anniversary of the state's founding**. The annual Bihar Diwas is no longer limited to festivities hosted by the state government; citizens from the state living throughout the country and overseas have begun to commemorate the occasion.
- **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has taken oath as **11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**. He will take over the reins of the state for the second time in a row. Governor Lieutenant **General Gurmit Singh** administered him the oath of office and secrecy at the Parade Ground in Dehradun.
- **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.
- **Kerala** is set to become the first state in the country to introduce **carbon-neutral farming methods** in selected locations, for which the government has set aside **Rs 6 crore** in the 2022-23 Budget. In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture Department and tribal areas, and steps are on to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva to a carbon-neutral farm. In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the **140 Assembly constituencies**.
- **Yogi Adityanath** takes oath as chief minister of **Uttar Pradesh** for his **second term** in office. Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Adityanath at **Lucknow's Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium** in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and other central ministers. **Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak** also took oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers in the new government.

International Affairs

- **The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has organised the massive military drill '**Cold Response 2022**' in **Norway** from March 14, 2022, and will continue till April 01, 2022.
- **The Russo-Ukrainian War** is an ongoing conflict between Russia (together with pro-Russian rebel groups) and Ukraine. It began in **February 2014, following Ukraine's Dignity Revolution**, and was initially focused on international recognition of **Crimea and parts of the Donbas as part of Ukraine**.
- **Serdar Berdimuhamedow** has been sworn in as the **President of Turkmenistan**. Berdimuhamedow succeeds his father and former president **Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov**, who became president in 2006 and served till 2022. It must be noted that the presidential elections in Turkmenistan are held every seven years. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, secured 72.97 per cent of the votes election to lead the gas-rich country.
- **Kuwait** reached a scorching temperature of **53.2 degrees Celsius** (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among 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.
- The **World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD)** has issued the **Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB)** to support of South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of **Black Rhino**. Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) is also known as "Rhino Bond". It is a five-year **\$150 million Sustainable Development Bond**. It includes a potential performance payment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras builds a new interdisciplinary water management and policy centre known as 'AquaMAP' to address India's water issues.** The centre will build scalable models employing novel technology to provide smart solutions for water concerns. As proof of concept, these models will be installed in various areas across the country.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has teamed up with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to offer a web-based, user-friendly programme on "Industrial AI," aimed at upskilling employees and incorporating **AI applications to industrial concerns**.
- The **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad's Centre for Digital Transformation** recently launched a retail tech consortium, with intentions to partner with a number of retail and technology companies in India. The **consortium**, according to the centre, will strive to improve collaboration among **retail technology** firms in the country.
- Mobility firm **Ola** has signed an agreement to acquire **neo bank Avail Finance** which provides financial services to the blue-collared workforce and has over 6 million users. The acquisition is a key step in Ola's broader push into the fintech space as it looks to build a mobility-focused financial services business under Ola Financial.
- In a major boost to Government's "**Make in India**" Initiative, the **Airports Authority of India** under its R & D initiative, has entered into an agreement with Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited for the joint, indigenous development of systems for air traffic management and surface movement of aircraft at airports in the country which were hitherto being imported.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **The country's largest iron ore producer, NMDC Ltd,** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for drone-based mineral research with **IIT Kharagpur. The National Mining and Development Corporation (NMDC)** is increasingly dependent on technical innovation and the digitisation of its exploration and mining database. The government has taken the first step in regulating and monitoring drone usage and operations in India, which are now employed in agriculture, urban planning, forestry, mining, disaster management, surveillance, and transportation, among other industries.

Books and Authors

- Padma Awardee **Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia** has authored a new book titled “**More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT**”, a personal account of people, incidents, mentors, failures, and absurdities against the backdrop of surgery. The book maps the journey of Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia from his student years through residency, research, surgical practice and surgical teaching as a means of sharing the lessons he learned.
- **Sportstar and The Hindu group** released a coffee-table book, ‘**Road to 1000**’, at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel. The book is a 520-page, special collection with 1000 pictures to commemorate Indian cricket’s journey. ‘Road to 1000’ was released by former India cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Syed Kirmani, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Chandrakant Pandit and Nilesh Kulkarni here.
- Former Indian cricket captain **Gundappa Ranganatha Vishwanath** has penned his autobiography titled “**Wrist Assured: An Autobiography**”, co-authored by senior journalist R Kaushik. The book traces the cricketing journey of Gundappa Vishwanath who played Test Cricket for India between 1969 and 1986, making 91 appearances and scoring more than 6000 runs.
- A book titled “**Unfilled Barrels: India’s oil story**” authored by **Richa Mishra** will be released soon. Richa Mishra is a journalist with The Hindu BusinessLine. The book highlights the key role played by **Keshav Dev Malaviya**, who was the petroleum minister in the 1970s with a degree in oil technology, and the emergence of other stakeholders from public sector enterprises, including ONGC, to the fiercely competitive private players like Cairn Energy, and Mukesh Ambani’s RIL.
- A picture book edition co-authored by **Nobel Peace Prize winners 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.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **HDFC Bank** has announced to launch the “**SmartHub Vyapar programme**” & ‘**AutoFirst**’ app the following two initiatives/application to give a digital push to small business loans. The financial institution has onboarded over 2.7 million retailers and is buying 100 thousand retailers each month. HDFC Bank has plans to onboard 20 million retailers in three years. More than half of the newly onboarded retailers solely function by means of the app platform.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** has instructed **regulated entities (REs)** lending to the **microfinance sector** to ensure that **loans are collateral-free and not secured by a lien on the borrower’s deposit account**, that repayment obligations are capped, that interest rates are not usurious, and that there is no prepayment penalty. The central bank’s harmonised regulatory framework for regulated lenders, which includes scheduled **commercial banks, small financing banks, NBFC-MFIs, and NBFC-Investment and Credit Companies, includes these clauses.**
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the license of **People’s Co-operative Bank Limited, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**. The bank is found to lack adequate capital and earning prospects under the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) – under Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – ‘**Act to apply to co-operative societies subject to modifications**’.
- **DBS Bank India** has announced the launch of its **Green Deposit Programme** for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally-friendly projects or avenues. DBS Bank is one of the few banks globally to integrate Sustainable Development Goals by offering lending & trade credit solutions to sustainable and environmentally-friendly green sectors and now offering a Green Deposit product.
- **ICICI Bank announced that it has partnered with Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, one of India’s most successful cricket teams, to introduce a co-branded credit card. The card, dubbed the ‘**Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card**,’ has been expressly developed with a range of exclusive perks for the iconic team’s millions of cricket fans.
- **HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Axis Bank have each purchased a 7.84 percent stake in ONDC**, an open public digital infrastructure framework business. **HDFC Bank said it now owns 7.84 percent of ONDC’s equity share capital after allotting 10 lakh equity shares for Rs 10 crore.**

- **Fitch Ratings** has slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal **FY 2022-2023 to 8.5 per cent** in its Global economic **Outlook-March 2022**. Earlier this rate was estimated at **10.3%**. The Rating agency Fitch has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal FY 2021-2022, by 0.6 percentage points to **8.7 percent**.
- The **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has retained the outlook for India's real gross domestic product (GDP) at **5.5% in FY24**, lower than **8.1% in 2022-23**.
- **FinMapp**, a financial services firm, announced that it has been granted a licence under the **National Pension Scheme** by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**. It has also obtained a registration certificate as a corporate agent from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai)**.
- **According to a news release from the DPIIT**, the government has extended the deadline for companies to convert debt financing into **equity shares by up to 10 years**, a measure that is likely to provide comfort to emerging enterprises dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Previously, convertible notes may be converted into equity shares for up to **five years** after the initial convertible note was issued. That time frame has now been **increased to ten years**.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a 'Maharatna' and Fortune Global 500 company, has teamed up with **UltraCash Technologies Pvt. Ltd. to provide BharatGas customers with a voice-based digital payment option** for booking LPG cylinders. Customers who do not have access to a smartphone or the internet can use this feature to book cylinders and pay via the **'UPI 123PAY' system**.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** designed the **"UPI Lite - On-Device wallet" ("UPI Lite")** functionality for UPI users for small value transactions. About 75% of the total volume of retail transactions (including cash) in India are below Rs 100 transaction value. Further, 50% of the total UPI transactions are having a transaction value of up to Rs 200/-. To easily process such small value transactions, NPCI has launched this facility of **"UPI Lite"**.
- **PhonePe, a digital payments and financial services company**, has acquired **GigIndia**, a network for independent micro-entrepreneurs based in Pune. **PhonePe will be able to integrate 1.5 million entrepreneurs and over 100 businesses as customers**, in addition to its own employees, as a result of the acquisition. PhonePe will use GigIndia's network of freelancing microentrepreneurs to assist corporations and businesses in expanding their customer bases and distribution channels.
- The **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has pegged India's economic growth rate for **2022 to 4.6 percent** due to the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. Earlier this rate was projected at 6.7%. The UNCTAD has further projected the global economic growth for the year **2022 at 2.6 percent**. Earlier this rate was projected at 3.6 percent.
- Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI has inaugurated the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) on March 24, 2022 in Bengaluru, Karnataka**. RBI has set up the RBIH with an **initial capital contribution of Rs. 100 crore**. The objective of RBIH is to encourage and nurture financial innovation in a sustainable manner through an institutional set-up. It has been setup as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is one of the five wholly-owned subsidiaries of the RBI.

Appointments/Resignations

- The board of IT major, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has announced the re-appointment of **Rajesh Gopinathan** as the **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company for five years. His second term will begin from February 21, 2022, to February 20, 2027. Rajesh Gopinathan was first appointed as the CEO and MD of TCS in 2017.
- **The Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** has unanimously extended the tenure of its incumbent President Jay Shah for a period of one year. The decision was taken during the annual general meeting of ACC on March 19, 2022. Jay Shah is the Secretary of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** since 2019.
- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, **Antonio Guterres** has announced the appointment of Indian development economist **Jayati Ghosh** as a member of the UN's newly established Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has approved the appointment of **Pralay Mondal** as the interim **Managing Director and CEO of CSB Bank**. Presently he is the Managing Director at CSB Bank.
- **Hisashi Takeuchi (from Japan)** has been appointed as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Maruti Suzuki** for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2022.
- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, the executive chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, has been elected as a fellow of the **Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in Scotland**. She will be joining RSE's current fellowship of around 1,700 fellows who are recognised as being some of the greatest researchers and practitioners working in or with Scotland.
- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has approved an extension in the tenure of its **Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg** by a year until **September 30, 2023**.
- **Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare (retd.)** has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence. He will work closely with the Defence Secretary.
- Former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman **Rajnish Kumar** has joined the international strategic advisory board of data and analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet. Kumar, a veteran banker, currently sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe. Dun & Bradstreet has a legacy of more than 180 years.

Defence News

- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has celebrated its **83rd Raising Day** with zeal and ceremonial fervour on **19 March 2022**. The 83rd Raising Day parade was organised at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. This was for the first time that the CRPF celebrated its Raising Day outside the national capital.
- The **9th** edition of the Joint Military Exercise '**LAMITIYE-2022**' between the **Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)** was held from March 22 to 31, 2022 at **Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles**. The Indian Army contingent will be represented by the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).
- 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 **3rd edition** of the joint training exercise named **EX-DUSTLIK** between the **Indian army and Uzbekistan army** begins at **Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022**. The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in **Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021**. The Indian contingent will be represented by the Grenadiers Regiment and will join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North-Western Military District.
- **Malaysia** will host armed forces from 4 nations namely, **Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom** in the annual **Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise**. The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the **Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA)** – a series of bilateral and multilateral defence agreements established in 1971. Bersama means together in Malay.
- Indian Army's "**Agnibaaz Division**" organized a joint exercise "**Suraksha Kavach 2**" with **Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune**. The exercise aimed to counter any terrorist actions in Pune. The exercise involved the participation of the **Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF)** of the Indian Army, Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police along with Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads, and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies.

Awards and Recognitions

- Former India cricketer **Suresh Raina** has been awarded the prestigious '**Sports Icon**' award at the **Maldives Sports Awards 2022**. The Maldives government felicitated Raina for his various achievements throughout his career.
- Architect, educator and social activist **Francis Kéré** has been announced as the 2022 laureate of the **Pritzker architecture prize 2022**, the award often referred to as architecture's highest honour. He was born in the small village of Gando in Burkina Faso, Kéré is the first black architect to win the coveted award.
- **The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** of the **NITI Aayog** organised the **5th** edition of the **Women Transforming India Awards (WTI)**. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate 75 years of India's independence, the WTI Awards have been conferred 75 women achievers for their contribution towards a '**Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat**'.
- **The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters** has awarded the **Abel Prize for the year 2022** to American Mathematician **Dennis Parnell Sullivan**. The citation mentions that the award has been given, "For his groundbreaking contributions to **topology** in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects."

- **Devendra Jhajharia** became the first para-athlete to receive the **Padma Bhushan award**. He has won many Paralympic medals, including gold at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens and 2016 Rio Games, and a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- **Mario Marcel**, the Governor of the **Central Bank of Chile**, has won the **Governor of the year award** at the **Central Banking Awards 2022**. Banco Central de Chile is the name of the central bank of Chile.

Summit and Conference

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) and FICCI** are jointly organizing Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation), titled '**WINGS INDIA 2022**'. **WINGS INDIA AWARDS** will also be conferred during this event. The event focuses on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity. It is being held from **24th to 27th March 2022**, at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. The theme of the event: **India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry**.
- Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** has addressed the **Gulf Countries' Investment Summit** at **SKICC, Srinagar** which is aimed at providing a platform for the foreign business delegates to explore a host of investment opportunities in the **UT of Jammu & Kashmir**. The Lt Governor highlighted the scope for J&K and GCC companies' economic cooperation to make Jammu and Kashmir the most beautiful investment destination in the world.
- The **73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS)** has been organized in **Visakhapatnam** from today to the 26th of March. Experts from various parts of India and a few from abroad are participating in the three-day conference held at Vizag Conventions at Madhurawada. The last national conference was held 37 years ago in Visakhapatnam. The theme is chosen for ANCIPS – 2022 '**Bridging minds ... Connecting generations**' was very appropriate in view of the growing generation gap and its impact on society.

Ranks and Reports

- **India** has improved its rank by five spots to be placed at **51st position** in the '**Global House Price Index Q4 2021**' released by property consultant **Knight Frank**. India was placed at **56th** position in Q4 of 2020. India witnessed a **2.1 per cent** annual appreciation in housing price rates during the October-December quarter of **2021 against Q4 of 2020**. **Turkey** saw the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 per cent in Q4 2021. **New Zealand (22.6 per cent)**, **Czech Republic (22.1 per cent)**, **Slovakia (22.1 per cent)** and **Australia (21.8 per cent)** are among the top 5 countries respectively in the latest research report. **Malaysia, Malta and Morocco** markets recorded a decline in housing prices by 0.7 per cent, 3.1 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively, in the year 2021.
- **New Delhi** has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the second consecutive year as per **IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report**. New Delhi is followed by **Dhaka (Bangladesh)**, **N'Djamena (Chad)**, **Dushanbe (Tajikistan)** and **Muscat (Oman)** as the top five most polluted capital cities respectively. Meanwhile, **Bhiwadi** was the most polluted city in India, followed by Ghaziabad, Delhi and Jaunpur.
- **Gujarat** has retained the top position in the **second edition** of **NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2021**. The first edition was released in 2020. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are the other top 10 states in the 2021 index respectively. Across the **Union Territories**, **Delhi** has performed the best, followed by Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Puducherry. Among the **Himalayan states**, **Uttarakhand**, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim and Manipur were at the top respectively.

Sports News

- Indian cueist **Pankaj Advani** has defeated **Dhruv Sitwala** to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022. It was held in **Doha, Qatar**.
- **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari- Monaco) has won the **Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022** at the **Bahrain International Circuit**, a motor racing circuit in the west of Bahrain. **Carlos Sainz Jr.** (Ferrari – Spain) came second while **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) came third. This was the first Formula One race of 2022.

- **Hyderabad FC** has clinched their maiden **Indian Super League title** after defeating Kerala Blasters in the penalty shoot-out in the summit clash. Goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani made three stunning saves. Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shoot-out after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra time.
- **Lakshya Sen, who won bronze at the World Championships**, placed second at the 2022 All England Open Badminton Championships after losing to world number one Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles final on Saturday.
- Australian female tennis player **Ashleigh Barty** has announced retirement from tennis at the age of **25 years**. She has won three Grand Slam singles titles — the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian Open in 2022. Apart from playing tennis, she has also played semi-professional cricket during her break from tennis between 2014-2016.

Important Days

- The **International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day)** is celebrated every year on **March 21**. The theme for 2022 is **"Forests and sustainable production and consumption."**
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is observed annually on **21 March** to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination. The 2022 edition of the International Day focuses on the theme **"VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM"**.
- The **World Oral Health Day** is marked every year on **March 20**. The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: Be Proud Of Your Mouth.
- **World Water Day** is celebrated globally on **22nd March** every year. The day aims to highlight the importance of freshwater. It is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The World Water Day theme 2022 is **"Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible"**.
- **World Down Syndrome Day (WDS)** is observed every year on **21 March**. It is a global campaign that is observed annually to spread awareness about Down Syndrome. The theme of World Down Syndrome Day this year is **"Inclusion Means"**.
- On 21st March, **World Poetry Day** is celebrated every year to recognise the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind. World Poetry Day celebrates one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity.

- **World Meteorological Day** is celebrated globally on **March 23rd** every year. The day is celebrated as the establishment of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, and it concentrates on the behaviour of Earth's atmosphere. This year World Meteorological Day is celebrated keeping the theme of Early Warning and Early Action.
- **World Tuberculosis Day** is observed every year on **24 March** to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. The theme of World TB Day 2022 - **'Invest to End TB. Save Lives.'**
- **United Nations** has recognised **March 24** to be observed as the **International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims every year**. The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.
- The United Nations observes the **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members** on **25 March** every year. This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.
- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** is marked on **25 March** every year to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice. 2022 Theme: **"Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism"**.

Obituaries

- The former Prime Minister of Mali, **Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga** has passed away due to illness. Maïga served as prime minister of Mali from 2017 until 2019. He had been detained since August 2021 after the country was taken over by a military junta. He was appointed Keita's prime minister in 2017 but resigned in April 2019 over a massacre that left 160 people dead.
- **Shahabuddin Ahmed**, the former **President of Bangladesh** has passed away at the age of 92 in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**. He was the interim head of state as the consensus nominee of all parties amid a mass upsurge in 1990 to topple ex-military dictator HM Ershad.
- 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.

- **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.

Miscellaneous News

- **Geographical Indication tag** has been awarded to the **Narasingapettai Nagaswaram** under the category of musical instruments of class 15. Narasinghapettai nagaswaram is a classical wind music instrument that is traditionally made in a village near **Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu**.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) was conferred with **“Best Tableaux” Trophy**. The award ceremony took place in Ministry itself with a small delegation of **Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** officials present for the same.
- Venezuela’s **Yulimar Rojas** bettered her own women’s triple jump world record with a leap of **15.74 metres** to win gold at the World Indoor Championships. The Olympic champion beat her previous outright best of **15.67 metres** set at the Tokyo Games last year, as well as her indoor record of 15.43 metres, set in 2020.

Static Takeaways

- Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya;
- Haryana Capital: Chandigarh;
- Haryana Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar.
- Manipur Capital: Imphal; Governor: La. Ganesan.
- West Bengal Capital: Kolkata;
- West Bengal Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar;
- West Bengal Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee.
- Nagaland Capital: Kohima;
- Nagaland Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio;
- Nagaland Governor: Jagdish Mukhi (additional charge).
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan;
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- NATO chief: Jens Stoltenberg;
- NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Turkmenistan Capital: Ashgabat;
- Turkmenistan Currency: Turkmenistani manat.

- Kuwait Capital: Kuwait City;
- Kuwait Currency: Kuwaiti dinar.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- World Bank President: David Malpass.
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994;
- HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan;
- HDFC Bank Chairman: Atanu Chakraborty.
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi;
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Tata Consultancy Services Founded: 1 April 1968;
- Tata Consultancy Services Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Asian Cricket Council Chairman: Amitabh Choudhary;
- Asian Cricket Council Headquarters: Colombo, Sri Lanka;
- Asian Cricket Council Founded: 19 September 1983;
- Asian Cricket Council Membership: 25 associations;
- Asian Cricket Council Parent organization: ICC.
- Maruti Suzuki Founded: 1982, Gurugram;
- Maruti Suzuki Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NPCI Founded: 2008;
- NPCI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- NPCI MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe.
- Seychelles Capital: Victoria;
- Seychelles President: Wavel Ramkalawan;
- Seychelles Continent: Africa.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Formed: August 18, 1978;
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Director-General: Virender Singh Pathania;
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Motto: Vayam Rakṣāmah (We protect).
- Uzbekistan Capital: Tashkent;
- Uzbekistan President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev;
- Uzbekistan Currency: Uzbekistani so‘m.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur;
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian ringgit;
- Malaysia Prime Minister: Ismail Sabri Yaakob.
- FICCI Founded: 1927;
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi;
- FICCI President: Sanjiv Mehta;
- FICCI Secretary General: Dilip Chenoy;
- FICCI Director-General: Arun Chawla.
- Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.

- The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.
- World Poetry Day Headquarters: Paris, France;
- World Poetry Day Director-General: Audrey Azoulay;
- World Poetry Day Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom.
- World Meteorological Organization Head: David Grimes.
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the WHO's Director-General.
- WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Mali Capital: Bamako;
- Mali Currency: West African CFA franc;
- Mali Continent: Africa.