

## 23 MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 1. Kuwait becomes hottest place on earth, records 53.2 degree Celsius



- **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 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 per cent of demand – far below Kuwait's target of 15 per cent by 2030.
- **Kuwait Capital: Kuwait City**

- **Kuwait Currency: Kuwaiti dinar**

## 2. 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.
- NeVA is a work-flow system deployed on NIC Cloud, MeghRaj which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and to conduct Legislative Business of the House in a Paperless manner.
- NeVA is a device neutral and member-centric application created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information regarding member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices,

bulletins, bills, starred/unstarred questions and answers, papers laid, committee reports etc. in their handheld devices/ tablets and equip all Legislatures/Departments to handle it efficiently.

- **Nagaland Capital: Kohima**
- **Nagaland Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio**
- **Nagaland Governor: Jagdish Mukhi (additional charge)**

### 3. March 22 observed as Bihar Day



- **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.
- **Every year on March 22, the Bihar Diwas commemorates the British carving away of Bihar from the Bengal Presidency in 1912. Patna was designated as the new province's capital.**

- **Bihar Diwas** has originally proclaimed a state initiative by **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar**.
- The day was also observed by people from Bihar who resided in various regions of the country.

#### 4. Pushkar Singh Dhami takes oath as 11th CM of Uttarakhand



- **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.
- The BJP contested the Assembly elections under Dhami's leadership and secured a comfortable majority in the 70-member House, winning **47 seats**. Dhami, who lost from the Khatima constituency in the Uttarakhand, led

the party's poll effort as Chief Minister during the assembly polls held last month.

## 5. PhonePe acquires freelance entrepreneur network GigIndia



- **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.**
- **PhonePe's key services are payments and financial services, and the Walmart-owned company has a 47 percent share of monthly Unified Payments Interface (UPI) volumes.**

## 6. IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report: Delhi world's most polluted capital



- **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. **Bangladesh** was the most polluted country, followed by Chad, Pakistan and Tajikistan. India was the fifth most polluted country.

## 7. Knight Frank: India Placed 51st in Global House Price Index Q4 2021

Rank	Country/Territory	Nominal Price Growth
1	Turkey	59.6%
2	New Zealand	22.6%
3	Czech Republic	22.1%
4	Slovakia	22.1%
5	Australia	21.8%
6	Netherlands	20.3%
7	United States	18.8%
8	South Korea	18.4%
9	Jersey	18.4%
10	Estonia	17.3%
51	India	2.1%
52	Indonesia	1.5%
53	Cyprus	1.2%
54	Malaysia	-0.7%
55	Malta	-3.1%
56	Morocco	-6.3%

Source: Knight Frank Research

- **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.

## 8. EX-DUSTLIK between Indian and Uzbekistan armies begins



- 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.
- The joint exercise would focus on Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate. The training schedule will focus primarily on sharing of tactical level drills and learning of best practices from



each other. The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between two armies.

- **Uzbekistan Capital: Tashkent**
- **Uzbekistan President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev**
- **Uzbekistan Currency: Uzbekistani so‘m**