

21 MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS

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



- 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.
- **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.

2. F1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 won by Ferrari's Charles Leclerc



- **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.

3. Pankaj Advani won Asian Billiards title for 8th time



- 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**. Overall this is Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian crown.
- Earlier, Advani had held off the stiff challenge of Pauk Sa of Myanmar to secure a spot in the final. He managed a 5-4 win after his opponent fought back strongly to level the match at four frames each.

4. UN World Happiness Report 2022: India Ranks 136th



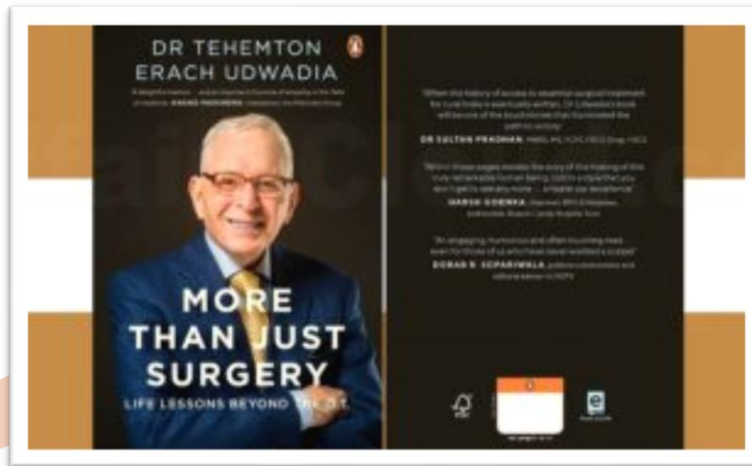
- **India** has improved its rank by three spots to acquire **136th position** in the **United Nations' World Happiness Report** for the year 2022, which ranked 146 countries.
- In 2021, India's rank was **139**. **Finland** has topped the 2022 World Happiness Report, for the fifth continuous year. **Afghanistan**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

5. 'Road to 1000' book released by Sportstar and The Hindu group



- **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 Niles Kulkarni here. On February 6, India played its 1,000th ODI against the West Indies in Ahmedabad, becoming the first team to record the feat.
- India's World Cup triumphs in 1983 and 2011, under Kapil Dev and M. S. Dhoni respectively, remain the major highlights in Indian ODI history. Sportstar reporters and photographers travelled the world to cover the Indian cricket team in the 1980s and 1990s. This is the best tribute to Indian cricket.

6. A book titled “More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT” by Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia



- 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.

7. 21st March observed as International Day of Forests



- The **International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day)** is celebrated every year on **March 21**. The main aim of the day is to raise awareness of the significance of all types of forests.
- The day is to celebrate to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations as well as to increase the public awareness among communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle on the earth.
- The theme for 2022 is “**Forests and sustainable production and consumption.**”
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

8. World Sparrow Day 2022: Date, theme, history



- **World Sparrow Day (WSD)** is celebrated every year on **March 20th**. This day is meant to raise awareness about the house sparrow and the dangers it confronts. The purpose of World Sparrow Day is to raise awareness and protect the bird all across the world.
- A few years ago, house sparrows were commonly seen in people's homes. As a result of rising noise pollution, the bird is now on the edge of extinction.
- The theme of World Sparrow Day is **"LOVE Sparrows."** More individuals are likely to join in a range of events and campaigns geared at sparrow conservation as a result of focusing on this issue.
- World Sparrow Day was established by **Mohammed Dilawar**, the founder of The Nature Forever Society. He started several projects, including the biodiversity Photo Contest, the annual Sparrow Awards, Project Save Our Sparrows, and the Common Bird Monitoring of India programme.
- The first World Sparrow Day was held in the year **2010**. In **2011**, the World Sparrow Awards were established.

9. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



- **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 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid “pass laws” in 1960.

10. 20th March celebrates as World Oral Health Day



- The **World Oral Health Day** is marked every year on **March 20**. The day aims to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives.
- The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: **Be Proud of Your Mouth**.
- The **FDI World Dental Federation** launched World Oral Health Day in **2007**. The day was originally celebrated on **12th September** in remembrance of FDI founder, **Dr Charles Godon**. Later, it was changed to **20th March in 2013** to avoid conflict with the FDI World Dental Congress in September.