



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

21-03- 22

MONDAY



LANGUAGE - ENGLISH



68th  
BPSC

Batch Starting From  
▶▶▶ 1st March ◀◀◀

Admission Open



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## 1. 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."

### History of the day:

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. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The theme for each International Day of Forests is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

## 2. 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". This edition aims, in particular, at: highlighting the importance of strengthening meaningful and safe public participation and representation in all areas of decision-making to prevent and combat racial discrimination; reaffirming the importance of full respect for the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and of protecting civic space; and recognizing the contribution of individuals and organizations that stand up against racial discrimination and the challenges they face.

### History of the day:

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.

In 1979, the General Assembly adopted a programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to

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Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. On that occasion, the General Assembly decided that a week of solidarity with the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination, beginning on 21 March, would be organized annually in all States.

### 3. NATO military exercise 'Cold Response 2022' begins in Norway



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 exercise is held in Norway every second year, for NATO Allies and partners. Cold Response is a long-planned and defensive exercise where Norway and its allies exercise in defending Norway against external threats. The exercise has been planned and informed about long before the war in Ukraine.

The Norwegian-led exercise provides an opportunity to train together in cold weather conditions over challenging terrain and demonstrates NATO's ability to respond decisively to any threat, from any direction. Around 30,000 troops from 27 nations are taking part in the 2022 edition of the exercise, with about 220 aircraft and more than 50 vessels. This

is the largest 'Cold Response' being exercise conducted in Norway since the 1980s.

### 4. Rajesh Gopinathan re-appoints as MD and CEO of TCS for five years



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.

Under his leadership, the company has strengthened its position with the revenues increasing from \$17.6 billion in the financial year ended March 31, 2017, to \$22.2 billion in the financial year ended March 31, 2021.

### 5. 20th March celebrates as World Oral Health Day



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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.

## History of the day:

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.

## Oral Health Tips:

- Prefer a healthy, less sugar diet to avoid tooth decay.
- Avoid smoking and constrict alcohol intake.
- Consistently maintain oral hygiene practices.
- Visit your dentist once a year.

## 6. Jay Shah's term extended by one year as a President of Asian Cricket Council



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. Shah was first appointed as the President of ACC in January 2021, replacing Nazmul Hassan, the President of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Shah's extension was proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) president Shammi Silva and the nomination was backed unanimously by all the members of the ACC.

## 7. 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.

### 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

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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.

## 8. Govt. increased timeline to 10 years for startups for converting debt investment into equity



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.

### Key Points:

- During the investment, the investor is given the option of asking the startup to issue equity shares in the firm in exchange for the money they had previously invested as a loan/debt if the startup does well or meets certain performance benchmarks in the future.

- Since its creation in 2017, convertible notes have become more viable financing vehicles for early-stage funding of businesses, according to experts.

- Convertible notes, unlike convertible debentures/debts, allow for optional conversion into equity without determining the conversion ratio ahead (and with fewer regulatory covenants), according to Sumit Singhania, Partner, Deloitte India.

- Extending this flexibility to ten years will make it easier for businesses to show their concept to early-stage investors (especially in highly inventive cases that require more gestation time to create scale) without having to make required pre-mature exits.

“This shift would benefit startups in a variety of industries, particularly those in the financial, educational, and retail sectors,” Pandey added.

### What is convertible debt?

Convertible debt/notes, a type of debt/loan instrument, are one way for an investor to invest in a startup. “A convertible note is an instrument issued by a startup company acknowledging receipt of money initially as debt, which is repayable at the holder’s option, or convertible into such number of equity shares of such startup company within a period not exceeding ten years from the date of issue of the convertible note, upon the occurrence of specified events as per the other terms and conditions agreed to and indicated in the instrument,” according to the note.

## 9. BPCl becomes the first to offer digital payment to non-internet users

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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. Customers can call the common number 080 4516 3554 from a non-internet phone to reserve a BharatGas cylinder for themselves or for friends in simple steps and in a secure manner thanks to the collaboration with Ultra Cash.

## KEY POINTS:

- Around 4 crore BharatGas customers in rural India will benefit from the implementation of this option.
- After the RBI Governor announced the launch of UPI 123PAY last week, BPCL is the first company in India to offer their service to consumers. UltraCash is a mobile payment app created by UltraCash Technologies Pvt Ltd and approved by India's National Payment Corporation (NPCI).
- More than 13,000 BharatGas customers transacted for more than Rs. One Crore in the month leading up to the launch, implying that Rs.

100 Crore in transactions could be expected in the next twelve months.

- With the Indian government encouraging the use of LPG through programmes like the Ujjwala Yojana, this facility will aid in the penetration of rural markets. Though anyone can use this service, it is primarily designed for non-feature phone users. However, the ease and security of UPI123PAY payments will make it popular among all segments and users. As a result, BharatGas is providing a service that is really BHARAT."
- UltraCash co-founder Vishal Lal stated, "We're ecstatic to join BPCL on this incredible adventure of bringing the next generation of customers into the digital revolution. Customers can now pay their bills online thanks to RBI and NPCI's groundbreaking initiative.

## About Bharat Petroleum:

Bharat Petroleum, the second-largest Indian oil marketing company and one of India's premier integrated energy companies, is engaged in crude oil refining and marketing, with a significant presence in both the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. The company was awarded the coveted Maharatna designation, allowing it to join an exclusive group of businesses with greater operational and financial autonomy. The refineries of Bharat Petroleum in Mumbai and Kochi, as well as the subsidiary Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd. in Bina, Madhya Pradesh.

## 10. Suresh Raina felicitated with 'Sports Icon' award by Maldives government

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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. Raina was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons, including former Real Madrid player Roberto Carlos, Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell, former Sri Lankan captain and cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya and Dutch football legend Edgar Davids among others.

## Career of Suresh Raina:

Raina is known for aiding the Indian cricket team to its World Cup glory back in 2011 and has also won the Indian Premier League(IPL) trophy four times with the Chennai Super Kings(CSK) franchise. He is the first Indian player to score 6000 as well as 8000 runs in a Twenty20 career and the first-ever cricketer to reach 5,000 runs in IPL. He also holds the record for scoring the most fifties in Champions League T20 history.

## ONE LINER

- NATO chief: **Jens Stoltenberg;**
- NATO Founded: **4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;**
- NATO Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium.**

- 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.**