

29
March
2022

International Relations

UP's Moradabad 2nd most noise polluted city globally: UNEP Report

Why in News

- The city of **Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh** is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Moradabad has recorded noise pollution of a maximum of 114 decibels (dB).

Key Points

- The report ranks 61 cities around the world.
- The highest noise pollution of 119 dB has been recorded in **Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh**.
- At third place is Pakistan's capital Islamabad, where the noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 dB.
- The report identifies 13 noise polluted cities in south Asia.
- Five of these, including Moradabad, are in India, which have recorded alarming levels of noise pollution: Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), Delhi (83 dB).
- The quietest cities in the world are Irbrid at 60 dB, Lyon at 69 dB, Madrid at 69 dB, Stockholm at 70 dB, and Belgrade at 70 dB.
- The noise pollution figures given in the report relate to daytime traffic or vehicles.

Note:

- Sounds with a frequency over 70 dB are considered harmful to health.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) had recommended a 55 dB standard for residential areas in the 1999 guidelines, while for traffic and business sectors, the limit was 70 dB.
- The WHO set the limit of noise pollution on the road at 53 dB in 2018, taking into account health safety.

Source: TOI

NOISIEST CITIES

Dhaka (Bangladesh)	119 dB
Moradabad (UP, India)	114 dB
Islamabad (Pakistan)	105 dB
Rajshahi (Bangladesh)	103 dB
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	103dB



Important News: India

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and UAE unveiled

Why in News

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry announced the unveiling of the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** on 28 March 2022 during his visit to the UAE.
- Shri Goyal is in UAE to participate in 'Investopia Summit' and 'World Government Summit' being held in Dubai on 28th March 2022 and 29th March 2022 respectively.



Key Points

- India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit held between Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Executive Council.

The salient features of India-UAE CEPA are as follows:

- The India-UAE CEPA is the first deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade.

Timelines:

- The negotiations for India-UAE CEPA were concluded in a record span of 88 days.
- The Agreement is expected to enter into force on 01 May 2022.

Note:

- From US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, India-UAE bilateral trade has steadily increased to US\$ 60 billion (₹4.55 lakh crore) in FY 2019-20 making the UAE, India's third largest trading partner.
- With exports to the UAE valued at US\$ 29 billion for the year 2019-20, the UAE is also the second largest export destination of India, while Indian imports from the UAE were valued around US\$ 30 billion, including 21.83 MMT (US\$ 10.9 billion) of crude oil.



- The UAE is also the 8th largest investor in India with an estimated investment of US\$ 18 billion.

Other Types of Trade Agreements:

- Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)
- Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA)
- Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)

Source: Business Standard

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launches TEJAS skilling project at Dubai Expo

Why in News

- Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched **TEJAS (Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills)** at Dubai Expo 2020, a Skill India International Project to train overseas Indians.

Key Points

- The project is aimed at skilling, certification and overseas employment of Indians.
- Tejas is aimed at creating pathways to enable the Indian workforce to get equipped for skill and market requirements in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Tejas aims at creating a 10,000 strong Indian workforce in UAE during the initial phase.

Note: Dubai Expo 2020 is a World Expo, currently hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Source: HT



Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata

Why in News

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the ten-day mega **Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata** (25th March, 2022- 3rd April, 2022) at the iconic 17th- century monument, Red Fort in Delhi.



Key Points

- The Red Fort festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata is being organised by the Ministry of Culture.
- More than 70 master craftsmen have displayed their craftsmanship at the venue.
- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, along with **Red Fort's "Monument Mitra", Dalmia Bharat Ltd.** have conceptualized the mega event as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Source: PIB

Important News: Defence

DRDO successfully flight tests Indian Army version of MRSAM off Odisha coast

Why in News

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.



Key Points

- The first launch was to intercept a medium altitude long range target and second launch was for proving the capability of a low altitude short range target.

About Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM):

- This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for use by the Indian Army.
- The MRSAM Army weapon system comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles.
- It is a land based variant of the Barak Air and Missile Defence System (AMD).

Source: Indian Express



Important News: Appointment

Pramod Sawant takes oath as Goa CM for second consecutive term

Why in News

- BJP leader Pramod Sawant took oath as Chief Minister of Goa for the second consecutive term.

Key Points

- Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sawant.
- The BJP had won 20 of the 40 seats in Goa.
- Mr. Sawant was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Goa for the first time in March 2019 after Manohar Parrikar's death.

Source: Indian Express



Award & Honours

Oscar Awards 2022; Will Smith wins first Oscar as best actor; Dune bags six awards and CODA takes three

- The **94th Academy Awards (Oscar Awards)** ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored the best films released between March 1 and December 31, 2021.
- Will Smith won the first Oscar as Best Actor of his career for his performance in King Richard. Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for The Eyes of Tammy Faye.
- CODA was the big winner, winning the Best Picture award. The film was nominated in three categories and won all three.
- Dune won six awards at the Oscars out of its ten nominations.



Some of the other prominent awards:

- Best Picture: CODA
- Best Actor: Will Smith for King Richard
- Best Actress: Jessica Chastain for The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- Best Director: Jane Campion for The Power of the Dog
- Best Supporting Actor: Troy Kotsur for CODA
- Best Supporting Actress: Ariana DeBose for West Side Story
- Best Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball
- Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car

Source: [Newsonair](#)

Important News: Sports

Swiss Open Badminton Championships 2022: PV Sindhu wins women's singles title

Why in News

- In **Swiss Open Badminton Championships 2022**, two-time Olympic medallist **P. V. Sindhu** has won the Women's Singles title beating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungpha.

Key Points

- This is the 2nd title for PV Sindhu in Basel, where she won her maiden World Championships title in 2019.
- This is also the 2nd title of the 2022 season for Sindhu after she won the Syed Modi India International in January.

Source: [Indian Today](#)



BYJU'S named as official sponsor of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Why in News

- Ed-tech company **BYJU'S** has been named as an official sponsor of the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**.

Key Points

- The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar from 21 November to 18 December, 2022.
- Bengaluru-headquartered BYJU'S has offices in 21 countries and its products are present in over 120 countries.

Source: TOI



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EXAM PREP

