

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

1. EU launches WTO action against China over Lithuania disputes (Jan. 28, 2022)

The European Union has filed a case against China at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for targeting Lithuania over its stance on Taiwan.

The move has angered China, which does not recognise Taiwan as a state and considers the self-ruled democratic island a rebellious territory of the mainland.

This European Union move comes after Lithuania complained that China is blocking its imports and putting up a number of restrictions on economic ties between the two countries.

Background to the issue

- In July 2021, Lithuania allowed Taiwan to open a diplomatic mission in its capital Vilnius in Taiwan's name instead of Chinese Taipei which many countries do to avoid angering China.
- It enraged China, which considers Taiwan a breakaway province of China and opposes any country which seeks to establish relations with Taiwan.
- In November 2021, China retaliated and downgraded its diplomatic ties with Lithuania and stopped issuing visas there in protest at Vilnius' decision to allow Taiwan to open the representative office under its own name.
- The European Commission handles trade policy for the EU's 27 member states and takes the lead on conflicts at the WTO in Geneva, even if they involve a single state.
- According to the WTO rules, both sides have 60 days to resolve the issue through talks and if they fail to resolve the issue then it will be taken up by the dispute panel of the WTO.

Lithuania

It is a European country and is the member of 27 countries European Union bloc.

Capital: Vilnius

Currency: Euro

President: Gitanas Nauseda

2. India - Central Asia first Summit Meeting (Jan. 28, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the first India Central Asian summit meeting in a virtual mode to commemorate the establishment of 30 years of diplomatic relationship on 27 January 2022.

The meeting saw the participation of the five Presidents of the Central Asian Republics namely; **Kazakhstan's Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan's Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan's Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan.**

Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Modi outlined three main objectives of the summit;

First, the cooperation between India and Central Asia is vital for the security and prosperity of the region.

Secondly, to set up an effective structure of cooperation between the two for regular interactions at various levels

Thirdly, to create an ambitious roadmap for cooperation between India and Central Asia.

Important highlights of the meeting:

- The leaders agreed to hold such a summit meeting every two years.
- They also agreed on regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council to prepare the groundwork for the Summit meetings.
- An India-Central Asia Secretariat in New Delhi would be set up to support the new mechanism.

To further cooperation between the two they agreed to:

- set up a Joint Working Groups at senior official level on Afghanistan and use of Chabahar Port of Iran
- To organise Buddhist exhibitions in Central Asian countries
- To commission an India-Central Asia dictionary of common words;
- To hold joint counter-terrorism exercises;
- To organise the visit of a 100 member youth delegation annually from Central Asian countries to India.

The Central Asian Presidents were to be the chief guest at the 73 Republic day celebration 2022 but due to covid pandemic their visit was cancelled.

3. Many first at the 73rd Republic Day 2022 (Jan. 27, 2022)

President Ram Nath Kovind led the nation in celebrating the 73rd Republic day 2022 celebration at the Raj Path in New Delhi.

This year republic day celebrations are part of the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebration of the Government of India to commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence.

Highlights of the Republic day ceremony 2022:

- There were no foreign guests at the ceremony like in 2021 due to the corona pandemic.
- From this year the Republic day celebration started on 23 and will end on 30 January. Earlier it started on 24 and ended on 29 January. 23 January is celebrated as Parakram Day on the birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose and 30 January is the Martyr's day to mark the assassination of Gandhiji.
- This year construction workers, sanitation workers, frontline workers and auto rickshaw drivers were invited as a special guest.
- Eco-friendly invitation cards with seeds of medicinal plants such as Aloe Vera, Ashwagandha and Amla have also been sent to invitees
- For the first time 480 dancers performed on the Rajpath who have been selected through a nationwide Vande Bharatham dance competition.

- The parade saw the launch of '**Shaheedon Ko Shat Shat Naman**' programme by National Cadet and a display of ten scrolls each of 75 metres prepared during the 'Kala Kumbh' event.
- Due to Covid restriction only 21 tableaux were allowed at the parade. 12 tableaux were of State and Union Territories and nine of the Ministries and Department. The tableaux of Meghalaya, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra participated in the parade.
- Flight Lieutenant **Shivangi Singh**, the country's first Rafale pilot, was a part of the Indian Air Force (IAF) that featured in the Republic Day parade.
- The finale of the Republic day parade was the spectacular 75 aircraft fly past by the Indian Air Force. It included Rafale, Sukhoi-30s, Jaguars etc. fighter jets and helicopters of the Indian Air Force. **17 Jaguar fighter jets formed 75 formations to commemorate the 75th Independence Day of India.**
- **The military horse Virat retired after the parade.** It was the 13 and final appearance of the Virat on the rajpath as the commandant of the President Bodyguard cavalry. The President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister personally patted the horse as a mark of respect.
- The beating retreat ceremony will be held on 29 January which will feature 1000 drones developed by IIT Delhi startup " Botlab Dynamics", and supported by the Department of Science and Technology. **India will become the fourth country in the world after China, US and Russia to conduct a drone show on such a scale.**
- A number of new tunes have been added to the ceremony to celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. These include '*Kerala*', '*Hind ki Sena*' and '*Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*'. The event will come to a close with the ever-popular tune of '*Sare Jahan se Acha*'.
- The parade was commanded by Parade Commander, Lieutenant General Vijay Kumar Mishra.

4. PM writes Personal letters to foreigners on Republic Day (Jan. 27, 2022)

On the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day on 26 January 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written personal letters to foreigners known to be friends of India acknowledging their role in strengthening people to people relations between India and their country.

The notable person who acknowledged the PM letter are as follows:

Jonty Rhodes

He is a former cricketer of South Africa who has also named his daughter India.

Chris Gayle

He is a West Indies Cricketer and also plays for Kings XI Punjab in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Ashley Rindsberg

He is a noted Israeli author.

Gad Saad

He is a Lebanese born Canadian Prof. of Marketing and is a renowned Behavioural scientist.

Machel Montano

He is from Trinidad and Tobago. He is a famous singer, producer, songwriter and actor.

5. China -Central Asian summit meeting (Jan. 27, 2022)

China hosted a virtual summit meeting with the leaders of the five Central Asian Countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on 25 January 2022. It was hosted by China just two days before the same Central Asian leaders were to be hosted by India in a virtual summit meeting on 27 January 2022.

- The Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted the meeting to commemorate 30 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Central Asian countries.
- China's President Xi Jinping offered \$500 million in assistance to the region for its livelihood programme and pledged to increase bilateral trade.
- The total trade between the two in 2018 was \$40 billion and the Chinese president pledged to increase it to \$70 billion by 2030.
- He announced that China will provide 5 crore free corona vaccine doses to these five countries.

6. Padma Awards 2022 (Jan. 26, 2022)

Ahead of Republic Day 2022, the Government of India on 25th January 2022 announced the Padma Awards. Padma Awards are one of the **highest civilian awards** of the country which is conferred in three categories, i.e. Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

- A total of 4 Padma Vibhushans, 17 Padma Bhushans and 107 Padma Shri awards have been conferred this year. 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- These awards are conferred by the President of India at the ceremonial functions which are held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March / April every year.

Padma Vibhushan (4):

This award is awarded for exceptional and distinguished services.

- Former Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister **Kalyan Singh**, India's first **CDS General Bipin Rawat**, Hindustani Classical vocalist **Prabha Atre** and **Radheshyam Khemka** of Gita Press have been named for the Padma Vibhushan.
- Apart from Gen. Rawat, Singh and Khemka have been conferred the award posthumously.

Padma Bhushan (17):

This award is awarded for distinguished service of a high order.

Name	Field - State/Country
Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	Public Affairs - Jammu and Kashmir

Shri Victor Banerjee	Art - West Bengal
Ms. Gurmeet Bawa (Posthumous)	Art - Punjab
Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee	Public Affairs - West Bengal
Shri Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Trade and Industry - Maharashtra
Shri Krishna Ella and Smt. Suchitra Ella* (Duo)	Trade and Industry - Telangana
Ms. Madhur Jaffery	Others-Culinary - United States of America
Shri Devendra Jhajharia	Sports - Rajasthan
Shri Rashid Khan	Art - Uttar Pradesh
Shri Rajiv Mehrishi	Civil Service - Rajasthan
Shri Satya Narayana Nadella	Trade and Industry - United States of America
Shri Sundararajan Pichai	Trade and Industry - United States of America
Shri Cyrus Poonawalla	Trade and Industry - Maharashtra
Shri Sanjaya Rajaram (Posthumous)	Science and Engineering - Mexico
Ms. Pratibha Ray	Literature and Education - Odisha
Swami Sachidanand	Literature and Education - Gujarat
Shri Vashishth Tripathi	Literature and Education - Uttar Pradesh

Padma Shri (107):

This award is awarded for distinguished service in any field.

Name	Field - State/Country
Shri Prahlad Rai Agarwala	Trade and Industry - West Bengal
Prof. Najma Akhtar	Literature and Education - Delhi

Shri Sumit Antil	Sports - Haryana
Shri T Senka Ao	Literature and Education - Nagaland
Ms. Kamalini Asthana and Ms. Nalini Asthana* (Duo)	Art - Uttar Pradesh
Shri Subbanna Ayyappan	Science and Engineering - Karnataka
Shri J K Bajaj	Literature and Education - Delhi
Shri Sirpi Balasubramaniam	Literature and Education - Tamil Nadu
Srimad Baba Balia	Social Work - Odisha
Ms. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	Science and Engineering - West Bengal
Ms. Madhuri Barthwal	Art - Uttarakhand
Shri Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat	Literature and Education - Ladakh
Dr. Himmatrao Bawaskar	Medicine - Maharashtra
Shri Harmohinder Singh Bedi	Literature and Education - Punjab
Shri Pramod Bhagat	Sports - Odisha
Shri S Ballesh Bhajantri	Art - Tamil Nadu
Shri Khandu Wangchuk Bhutia	Art - Sikkim
Shri Maria Christopher Byrski	Literature and Education - Poland
Acharya Chandanaji	Social Work - Bihar
Ms. Sulochana Chavan	Art - Maharashtra
Shri Neeraj Chopra	Sports - Haryana
Ms. Shakuntala Choudhary	Social Work - Assam
Shri Sankaranarayana Menon Chundayil	Sports - Kerala
Shri S Damodaran	Social Work - Tamil Nadu
Shri Faisal Ali Dar	Sports - Jammu and Kashmir

Shri Jagjit Singh Dardi	Trade and Industry - Chandigarh
Dr. Prokar Dasgupta	Medicine - United Kingdom
Shri Aditya Prasad Dash	Science and Engineering - Odisha
Dr. Lata Desai	Medicine - Gujarat
Shri Malji bhai Desai	Public Affairs - Gujarat
Ms. Basanti Devi	Social Work - Uttarakhand
Ms. Lourembam Bino Devi	Art - Manipur
Ms. Muktamani Devi	Trade and Industry - Manipur
Ms. Shyamamani Devi	Art - Odisha
Shri Khalil Dhantejvi (Posthumous)	Literature and Education - Gujarat
Shri Savaji Bhai Dholakia	Social Work - Gujarat
Shri Arjun Singh Dhurve	Art - Madhya Pradesh
Dr. Vijaykumar Vinayak Dongre	Medicine - Maharashtra
Shri Chandraprakash Dwivedi	Art - Rajasthan
Shri Dhaneswar Engti	Literature and Education - Assam
Shri Om Prakash Gandhi	Social Work - Haryana
Shri Narasimha Rao Garikapati	Literature and Education - Andhra Pradesh
Shri Girdhari Ram Ghonju (Posthumous)	Literature and Education - Jharkhand
Shri Shaibal Gupta (Posthumous)	Literature and Education - Bihar
Shri Narasingha Prasad Guru	Literature and Education - Odisha
Shri Gosaveedu Shaik Hassan (Posthumous)	Art - Andhra Pradesh
Shri Ryuko Hira	Trade and Industry - Japan
Ms. Sosamma Iype	Others - Animal Husbandry - Kerala

Shri Avadh Kishore Jadia	Literature and Education - Madhya Pradesh
Ms. Sowcar Janaki	Art - Tamil Nadu
Ms. Tara Jauhar	Literature and Education - Delhi
Ms. Vandana Kataria	Sports - Uttarakhand
Shri H R Keshavamurthy	Art - Karnataka
Shri Rutger Kortenhorst	Literature and Education - Ireland
Shri P Narayana Kurup	Literature and Education - Kerala
Ms. Avani Lekhara	Sports - Rajasthan
Shri Moti Lal Madan	Science and Engineering - Haryana
Shri Shivnath Mishra	Art - Uttar Pradesh
Dr. Narendra Prasad Misra (Posthumous)	Medicine - Madhya Pradesh
Shri Darshanam Mogilaiah	Art - Telangana
Shri Guruprasad Mohapatra (Posthumous)	Civil Service - Delhi
Shri Thavil Kongampattu A V Murugaiyan	Art - Puducherry
Ms. R Muthukannammal	Art - Tamil Nadu
Shri Abdul Khader Nadakattin	Others - Grassroots Innovation - Karnataka
Shri Amai Mahalinga Naik	Others - Agriculture - Karnataka
Shri Tsering Namgyal	Art - Ladakh
Shri A K C Natarajan	Art - Tamil Nadu
Shri V L Nghaka	Literature and Education - Mizoram
Shri Sonu Nigam	Art - Maharashtra
Shri Ram Sahay Panday	Art - Madhya Pradesh

Shri Chirapat Prapandavidya	Literature and Education - Thailand
Ms. K V Rabiya	Social Work - Kerala
Shri Anil Kumar Rajvanshi	Science and Engineering - Maharashtra
Shri Sheesh Ram	Art - Uttar Pradesh
Shri Ramachandraiah	Art - Telangana
Dr. Sunkara Venkata Adinarayana Rao	Medicine - Andhra Pradesh
Ms. Gamit Ramilaben Raysingbhai	Social Work - Gujarat
Ms. Padmaja Reddy	Art - Telangana
Guru Tulku Rinpoche	Others - Spiritualism - Arunachal Pradesh
Shri Brahmanand Sankhwalkar	Sports - Goa
Shri Vidyanand Sarek	Literature and Education - Himachal Pradesh
Shri Kali Pada Saren	Literature and Education - West Bengal
Dr. Veeraswamy Seshiah	Medicine - Tamil Nadu
Ms. Prabhaben Shah	Social Work - Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
Shri Dilip Shahani	Literature and Education - Delhi
Shri Ram Dayal Sharma	Art - Rajasthan
Shri Vishwamurti Shastri	Literature and Education Jammu and Kashmir
Ms. Tatiana Lvovna Shaumyan	Literature and Education - Russia
Shri Siddhalingaiah (Posthumous)	Literature and Education Karnataka
Shri Kaajee Singh	Art - West Bengal
Shri Konsam Ibomcha Singh	Art - Manipur

Shri Prem Singh	Social Work - Punjab
Shri Seth Pal Singh	Others - Agriculture - Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Vidya Vindu Singh	Literature and Education - Uttar Pradesh
Baba Iqbal Singh Ji	Social Work - Punjab
Dr. Bhimsen Singhal	Medicine - Maharashtra
Shri Sivananda	Others - Yoga - Uttar Pradesh
Shri Ajay Kumar Sonkar	Science and Engineering - Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Ajita Srivastava	Art - Uttar Pradesh
Sadguru Brahmeshanand Acharya Swami	Others - Spiritualism - Goa
Dr. Balaji Tambe (Posthumous)	Medicine - Maharashtra
Shri Raghuendra Tanwar	Literature and Education - Haryana
Dr. Kamlakar Tripathi	Medicine - Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Lalita Vakil	Art - Himachal Pradesh
Ms. Durga Bai Vyam	Art - Madhya Pradesh
Shri Jyantkumar Maganlal Vyas	Science and Engineering - Gujarat
Ms. Badaplin War	Literature and Education - Meghalaya

Note:

- Former West Bengal Chief Minister buddhadeb Bhattacharjee turned down the Padma Bhushan.
- Veteran singer Sandhya Mukherjee refused to accept the Padma Shri.

7. Stampede kills 8 football fans in Cameroon (Jan. 26, 2022)

At least 8 football fans were killed in a stampede on 24 January 2022 at a stadium in Cameroon, its capital, Yaounde. The football fans were trying to enter the Olembe Stadium to

watch a match between Cameroon and Comoros football team for the African Cup of Nations tournament .

Cameroon government allowed only vaccinated fans to watch the match and many fans who were not vaccinated against coronavirus tried to forcefully enter the stadium resulting in stampede.

Cameroon

It is an African country.

It's capital is Yaounde

Currency: **Central African franc**

8. India provides \$ 2 lakh assistance to Tsunami hit Tonga (Jan. 26, 2022)

The Government of India has announced an immediate relief of USD 2 lakh to the Kingdom of Tonga for reconstruction and rehabilitation work.

- The Pacific island country was hit by a Tsunami caused by an undersea Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption on 15 January 2022.
- According to American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano eruption was hundreds of times stronger than the US atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima in August 1945,
- According to NASA the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano spewed debris as high as 40 kilometres into the atmosphere during the January 15 eruption that triggered huge tsunami waves.
- The volcanic ash blanketed the country having a population of about 100,000 in a layer of toxic ash, poisoning drinking water, destroying crops and completely wiping out at least two villages.
- Neighbouring countries New Zealand, Australia and Japan are providing relief material to the country

9. India improves on the Corruption Perception Index 2021 (Jan. 26, 2022)

According to the latest Corruption Perception Index 2021 report, released by the Berlin based Transparency International, India's rank improved one place to 85 among 180 countries with a score of 40.

- Last year India was ranked 86.
- The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- The least corrupt countries were Finland, Denmark and New Zealand with a score of 88 at the top.
- They were followed by Norway, Singapore and Sweden with a score of 84 .
- The most corrupt was South Sudan at the bottom with a score of 11

10. India Israel to celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relation (Jan. 25, 2022)

India and Israel have started a series of events to mark the 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relationship between the two countries .

Both the countries have released a logo which features Ashok Chakra of India and Star of David of Israel. These symbols are there on the flags of India and Israel respectively.

The logo was designed by Nikhil Kumar Rai of India.

India and Israel established diplomatic relations in 1992 .

Israel

The modern state of Israel was set up as a country for the Jews . It was set up after the partitioning of the Muslim majority Palestine. It proclaimed its Independence on 14 May 1948 which was opposed by the Palestinians and Arab States.

India recognised Israel on 17 September 1950 but no diplomatic relationship was established with Israel as a protest to its treatment of Palestinians and India's support to Palestinian cause . India support setting up of an independent Palestinian state ,which Israel opposes .

India established diplomatic relations with Israel and opened its diplomatic mission in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1992.

Capital of Israel: Jerusalem. Israel claims Jerusalem as its capital but many countries including India see it as a disputed territory.

Tel Aviv is considered as the capital of Israel by a majority of countries.

Parliament of Israel: Knesset

Currency of Israel: Shekel

Prime Minister of Israel: Nefatli Bennet.