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1. India improves its ranks to 123 on the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2022 (Oct. 12, 2022)

India has improved its ranking by 6 places in the recently released Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII) 2022. It has been ranked **123th** in the world out of **161 countries**. India was ranked 129 in the 2020 Index.

India's rank has improved primarily due to improvement in indicators quantifying the impact of public spending and the impact of tax on reducing inequality.

The index ranks the countries on the policies made by the government and action taken to fight inequality in the first two years of covid pandemic.

Norway has been ranked as the top country followed by Germany and Australia. **South Sudan has been ranked 161st at the bottom of the Index.**

Composition of the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII)

The Index which is prepared by **Oxfam International** and **Development Finance International (DFI)** measures governments policies and actions in three areas proven to have a major impact on reducing inequality.

The three areas are **public services** (health, education, and social protection), **taxation** and **workers' rights**.

India's performance

Public service

India has been ranked **129th in the Public service spending**. It was ranked 141 in the 2020 report.

According to the Index, India features among the lowest performers on health spending. It dropped to 157th rank, a drop of two places. The Indian government spends 3.64 % of all it's spending on health which is lowest among all neighbouring countries. Pakistan spending is at 4.3%, Bangladesh is at 5.19%, Sri Lanka is at 5.88%, and Nepal is at 7.8%,

Progressive taxation

India was ranked **16 on progressive taxation** in 2022 while it was ranked 19 in 2020.

Labour Ranking (workers' rights and wages)

India was ranked 151 on labour ranking (which includes workers' rights) while in 2020 also it was ranked 151.

South Asian country's ranking

Country	Public service ranking	Tax ranking	Labour ranking	Regional ranking
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Maldives	71	12	54	1
Bangladesh	136	47	101	2
Sri Lanka	128	85	93	3
Nepal	116	36	126	4
Bhutan	114	27	140	5
India	129	16	151	6
Pakistan	151	77	113	7
Afghanistan	158	115	117	8

OXFAM International

Oxfam International was formed in 1995 by a group of independent non-governmental organizations. They joined together as a confederation to maximize efficiency and achieve greater impact to reduce global poverty and injustice.

The name "Oxfam" comes from the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, founded in Britain in 1942.

The Oxfam International Secretariat is based in **Nairobi, Kenya**

Oxfam India CEO : Amitabh Behar

2. Indian Railways plans to replace fossil fuel fleet with electric fleet by 2025 (Oct. 12, 2022)

In a big boost to the Centre's ambitious plan to make India a 100% electric vehicle nation by **2030**, the [Indian Railways](#) has proposed to replace its entire fleet of vehicles that run on diesel, biofuels or even natural gas with electric vehicles by **December 2025**.

To achieve the ambitious target of 2030 the country needs to set up 46,000 EV charging stations by 2030 to match the global benchmark.

Phase wise target of Railways

According to the timeline proposed by the railways, it aims to achieve the target of installing EV-charging stations and phasing out **20%** of its fleet by December 2023, **60%** by 2024 and **100%** by 2025.

The replacement of inspection vehicles in divisional offices and attached units would not be mandatory in the initial phase of three years since the vehicles would be required by officials for frequent visits to far-flung areas where adequate charging infrastructure may not be available.

The railways will also create an affordable and accessible charging infrastructure for users, including passengers, visitors and the general public, on its premises.

3. INS Tarkash reaches South Africa to participate in 7th edition of IBSAMAR (Oct. 12, 2022)

INS Tarkash reached **Port Gqeberha (also known as Port Elizabeth), South Africa** to participate in the **7th edition of IBSAMAR**, a joint multinational maritime exercise among **Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies** from 10 - 12 Oct 2022.

Important facts

- The previous edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR VI) was conducted at **Simons Town, South Africa** from 1 to 13 October 2018.
- The Indian Navy is represented by a **Teg class guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter** and personnel from the Marine Commando Force (MARCOS).
- The Harbor phase of IBSAMAR VII includes major exercises such as damage control and fire fighting exercises, VBSS/Cross boarding lectures and interactions between Special Forces.
- This joint maritime exercise will strengthen inter-operability for maritime security, joint operational training, sharing of best practices and addressing common maritime threats.

INS Tarkash

- INS Tarkash is a state-of-the-art **stealth frigate** of the **Indian Navy**.
- It is built by **Yantar Shipyard at Kaliningrad, Russia**.
- It is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions.
- The ship incorporates the latest stealth features such as low radar, infra-red, acoustic and magnetic signatures, making it difficult to detect at sea.
- The ship is part of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy based at Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.

4. Complaint filed against Google in CCI, NBDA alleges (Oct. 12, 2022)

Several news organisations have filed complaints against Google with the **Competition Commission of India i.e. CCI**, this complaint has been filed on behalf of the **News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA)** against **Google**.

Important facts

- It contains the names of several Google companies such as **Alphabet Inc., Google LLC, Google India Private Limited, Google Ireland Limited and Google Asia Pacific**, against whom a complaint has been filed with the CCI.
- NBDA in its complaint has alleged violation of **Section 19(1)(a) of the Competition Act 2002** against Google.
- The whole matter in the complaint is about the payment of news.
- It has been alleged that Google shows news of media organisations on its platform, but not enough money is paid in return.
- NBDA alleges that Google forces its news members to give news in the name of priority of news on search engine and referral traffic.
- It is alleged that Google uses the content of its news members for services like Google News, Google Discover and Google Accelerated Mobile Pages only for its own economic benefit.

About NBDA

- The News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) represents the private television news, current affairs and digital broadcasters.
- It is the collective voice of news, current affairs and digital broadcasters in India.
- It is an organisation fully funded by its members.
- At present NBDA has 26 leading news and current affairs broadcasters (119 news and current affairs channels) as its members.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It was set up under the Competition Act, 2002
- It comes under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- It promotes healthy market competition and prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.
- CCI also approves combinations under the act so that two merging entities do not overtake the market.
- Headquarter - **New Delhi**
- Current Chairman - **Ashok Kumar Gupta**

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6. Lucknow's Jagriti Yadav becomes UK high commissioner for a day (Oct. 12, 2022)

20-year-old **Jagriti Yadav of Lucknow** has been appointed to the highest post of **British High Commission in India** for a day under women empowerment after winning a competition on the occasion of **International Girl Child Day on 11 October 2022**.

Important Facts

- Jagriti is the **sixth person** to receive this honour of becoming the British High Commissioner.
- According to the British Embassy, Jagriti is the sixth winner to win the '**High Commissioner for a Day-India Edition**' competition held every year since **2017**.
- Jagriti, who hails from Lucknow, remained Britain's highest diplomat in India for a whole day. She gained experience in many diplomatic activities.
- Including holding meetings with various parties and presiding over the meeting. Apart from this, she has been involved in many events throughout the day.
- During this, Jagriti met the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture **Meenakshi Lekhi** as well as met West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin.

High Commissioner for a Day-India Edition

- The High Commissioner for a Day-India Edition competition is open to young girls in the **age group of 18-23**. Last year's winner was **Aditi Maheshwari**, 20, from **Chittorgarh, Rajasthan**.
- To celebrate International Girl Child Day, the British High Commission provides a unique opportunity for women across India to experience the life of the UK's top diplomat in the country.

7. Nitin Gadkari launches Toyota's pilot project on Flex-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV) in India (Oct. 11, 2022)

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** launched Toyota's first of its kind pilot project on Flex-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV) in India on 11 October 2022, which would run on 100% petrol as well as 20 to 100% blended ethanol and electric power.

The Toyota car which was unveiled by the minister has been imported from Toyota Brazil. Flex-fuel vehicles are at present available in Brazil, the USA and Canada.

Ethanol in India is mainly derived from molasses of the sugarcane.

An FFV SHEV has a flex-fuel engine and an electric powertrain, providing dual benefit of higher ethanol use and greater fuel efficiency. It can run for a significant time period on its Electric Vehicle mode, wherein the engine is shut off.

Flex-fuel compatible cars can run on more than one type of fuel and also a mixture of fuel. It typically runs on a blend of petrol and ethanol or methanol is used.

FFVs provide an opportunity of greater substitution of petrol by ethanol as it is capable of using any of the higher blends of ethanol mix from 20 per cent up to 100 per cent.

Toyota was also the first company in India to launch India's **first green hydrogen-based advanced fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV), Toyota Mirai.**

Toyota Motor Company of Japan has a joint venture with Kirloskar in India and the company is called as Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd.

8. India-Norway Joint Working Group on Higher Education held in New Delhi (Oct. 11, 2022)

India hosted the 6th meeting of the India-Norway Joint Working Group on Higher Education on 11th October 2022 in **New Delhi.**

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, International Cooperation, and Ministry of Education from the Indian side and by Ms. Anne Line Wold, Director General, Ministry of Education and Research from the Norwegian side. The Ambassador of Norway to India also participated in the meeting.

The Joint Working Group was established to monitor and oversee the implementation of the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Higher Education signed between India and Norway on 25th April 2022.

Kingdom of Norway

It is a Northern European country and lies in the **Scandinavian Peninsula.** Scandinavian islands consist of Norway and Sweden.

It is one of the largest exporters of crude oil and natural gas in the world .It has significant oil and gas reserves in **North Sea.**

Prime Minister: **Jonas Gahr Støre**

Capital: **Oslo**

Currency: **Norwegian krone**

9. CJI Uday Umesh Lalit recommends Justice 'DY Chandrachud' as his successor (Oct. 11, 2022)

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Uday Umesh Lalit** has recommended the name of **Justice DY Chandrachud** as his successor to the Union Minister of law and Justice on 11 October 2022. Justice Chandrachud is the senior-most Judge in the Supreme Court after the current Chief Justice of India.

Convention on appointment of next CJI

- On 7 October 2022 the Union Law ministry requested the CJI to recommend the name of his successor as per the convention.

- The Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice of India says that the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs will, at an 'appropriate time,' seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of the next Chief Justice of India.
- Though there is no specific timeline, as per practice, the Ministry seeks the outgoing CJI's recommendation a month before the retirement.
- The Judge of the Supreme Court retires **at the age of 65 years**.
- Chief Justice Lalit, who took charge as CJI on August 27, will retire on **November 8** this year. After him, Justice Chandrachud is likely to become the 50th CJI.

Justice D Y Chandrachud

Justice D Y Chandrachud was former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court and was elevated to the Supreme Court in May 2016. He has been part of some key benches that delivered landmark judgments like Ayodhya Ramjanmbhumi and Sabarimala. The Ayodhya verdict was unanimous and Chandrachud was part of the five-judge bench headed by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi.

Justice Chandrachud, who is set to be the 50th Chief Justice of India, would have a tenure of two years. He is due to retire on **November 10, 2024**.

10. India to host special meetings of UNSC on terrorism (Oct. 11, 2022)

India will host **UN Security Council diplomats** along with other member countries for an important meeting of the **Anti-Terrorism Committee in Mumbai** and New Delhi on 28-29 October 2022.

Important Facts:

- At present, India is the chairman of the UN Security Council's Anti-Terrorism Committee for the year 2022.
- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations **Ruchira Kamboj** said during a press conference in **New York** on 8 October that the members of the UN CTC would pay tribute to the victims of the **26/11 terror attack in Mumbai**.
- In the meetings, there will be a brainstorming on the topic of countering the challenges of 'Using New Technologies in Terrorism'.
- Terrorism is the most serious threat to the international community.
- Three important techniques used by terrorists will be discussed in these meetings. These include the Internet, social media and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).

Members of 15 countries will attend the meeting:

- Members of 15 countries will participate in this meeting. The crucial meeting of the UNSC's Anti-Terrorism Committee to be held in Mumbai later this month will be a tribute to those who lost their lives in the 26/11 terror attacks.
- In the year 2008, more than 160 people were killed in the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. The plot of this attack was hatched in Pakistan.

- The terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba was involved in this attack.
- India's two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UNSC will end in December this year.