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### **1. 64th Ramon Magsaysay award 2022 announced ( Sept. 3, 2022 )**

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF), Manila, Philippines has announced the winners of the 64th Ramon Magsaysay award 2022 on 31 August 2022.

It is given to Individuals and organisation for providing solutions to some of the most challenging problems of human development in Asia or the world.

The award which is considered to be equivalent to the '**Asian Nobel Prize**' will be given to Tadashi Hattori, Gary Benchehib, Sotheara Chhim, and Bernadette J. Madrid on 30 November 2022.

#### **Awardee of 2022**

##### **Sotheara Chhim**

He is from Cambodia. He has been honoured for his role as an Psychiatrist and mental health advocate who has played a key role in providing treatment of thousands of traumatized survivors of the Khmer Rouge's brutal rule and other patients in his country

##### **Tadashi Hattori**

He is from Japan. He is an ophthalmologist and humanitarian who has been honoured for his commitment in providing free eye surgeries in Vietnam.

##### **Bernadette J.Madrid**

She is a paediatrician from the Philippines. She has been honoured for her work as championing the Filipino child's right to protection by creating safe spaces for abused children nationwide.

##### **Gary Benchehib**

He is from France. He has been honoured for his work in eradicating marine plastic pollution in Bali, Indonesia.

#### **Ramon Magsaysay Award**

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award was founded in 1957 in memory of the Philippines President Ramon Magsaysay who died in a plane crash in 1957.
- The award was established by the American philanthropist Rockfellers Brothers fund.
- The first award was given on 31 August 1958 and **Vinoba Bhave** of India was amongst the first five awardee.
- It was till 2008 given in 6 categories annually. They were Community Leadership, Public Service, Government Service, Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts, Peace and International Understanding, Emergent Leadership.
- Starting in 2009, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is no longer being given in fixed Award categories, except for Emergent Leadership.

### **2. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla unveils first statue of Swami Vivekananda in Mexico ( Sept. 4, 2022 )**

Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** on 3 September unveiled a **statue of Swami Vivekananda** at University of State of Hidalgo in **Mexico**.

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- This is the **first statue** of Swami Vivekananda in Latin America.
- Birla said that the teachings and personality of Swami Vivekananda have inspired people not only in India but across the world.
- This statue will be a source of inspiration to the youth to strive and bring change that will take their country to new heights.
- Today, people across the world are embracing his ideals and taking a pledge to follow them for the betterment of their lives and society.
- Om Birla is leading the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Mexico.
- Om Birla on 2 September also unveiled a statue of freedom fighter Dr Pandurang Khankhoje at Chapingo University in Mexico.
- Earlier, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha had inaugurated the Indo-Mexico Friendship Garden in the Mexican Parliament Complex.

***About Swami Vivekananda :***

- **Born - January 12, 1863**
- Childhood Name - **Narendranath Dutt**
- He is best known for his speech at the World Parliament of Religions in **Chicago in the year 1893**.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose called him "**the architect of modern India**".
- He introduced the world to the Indian philosophy of Vedanta and Yoga.

***Mexico :***

- Mexico is a country in **southern North America**.
- It is the third largest country in Latin America after Brazil and Argentina.
- President - **Andrés Manuel López Obrador**
- Capital - **Mexico City**
- Currency - **Mexican peso**
- Official Language - **Spanish**

**3. GMR Group to sell its entire 40% stake in Philippines' Cebu airport ( Sept. 3, 2022 )**

The New Delhi based Multinational GMR Group, on 2 September 2022, has said that it will divest its entire 40 per cent stake in Cebu international airport in Philippines for a payment of Rs 1,330 crore.

However the GMR will continue to provide consultancy service to the Airport till 2026 and will earn revenue for it.

According to GMR, the company will now focus on high growth opportunities. It will now use the capital to invest in the **Kualanamu International Airport** at Medan, Indonesia. The Kualanamu International Airport is being developed and operated by GMR Airports International.

### **Mactan Cebu International Airport**

It is the second largest Airport of the Philippines after the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Manila.

In 2014, GMR Infrastructure in partnership with Megawide Construction Corporation of Philippines won the bid to operate and develop the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

Both the Megawide Construction Company and GMR are selling their stake to Aboitiz InfraCapital Inc. of Philippines.

### **Currency of Philippines: Philippine pesos**

### **GMR Airports International**

GMR Airports International is a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure Ltd

GMR Group operates the **IGI Delhi International Airport, Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport** and **Bidar** Airport in (Karnataka).

It is building a Greenfield airport at **Mopa in North Goa** and an International Greenfield Airport at **Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram**, and Andhra Pradesh.

It is the **only Indian company** to develop and operate foreign International airport. It is developing airports in **Indonesia, Greece**.

The GMR group was founded by Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao. It is in the business of Infrastructure, Energy, transportation etc.

## **4. United States announces hosting first-ever US-Pacific Island Country Summit ( Sept. 3, 2022 )**

The United States has announced to host the **US-Pacific Island Country Summit** for the **first time** in the last week of this month amid China's growing influence in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- This summit will be held in **Washington** from 28 to 29 September.
- US President **Joe Biden** will host the summit.

- The summit will showcase the United States' deep and enduring partnership with Pacific island countries and the Pacific region that is based on shared history, values, and people-to-people ties.
- The conference was announced a week after the US accused Beijing of expanding its nuclear arsenal.
- The US has claimed that the process of building an excessive nuclear arsenal by China could harm the stability of the Indo-Pacific region.
- The White House has invited 12 Pacific Island countries, including the Solomon Islands, which signed a security pact with China in April 2022.

***About Indo-Pacific :***

- It covers half of the world's population and more than **60 percent** of the global GDP.
- It is a geopolitical region that spans two regions of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- Extending from the west coast of the United States of America to the west coast of India, the Indo-Pacific is a regional structure of **24 countries**.
- It includes the tropical waters of the **Indian Ocean, western and central Pacific Ocean**.

**5. Saudi Arabia to launch new national carrier 'RIA' ( Sept. 3, 2022 )**

Saudi Arabia is finalizing the launch of its new international **airline "RIA"**.

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- The launch of this new project, backed by the **Public Investment Fund** of Saudi Arabia, has been underway for the past 12 months.
- Once launched, it will become **Saudi's second national carrier**.
- It will be based at **Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport**.
- This is unprecedented in the history of the Saudi Arabian aviation sector.
- Saudi Arabia is targeting **30 million international transit passengers by 2030**, while it currently stands at less than **4 million**.
- This will mean the new carrier would need to operate more than 150 routes globally in **Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Asia**.
- This would require an investment of **\$30 billion**.
- Emirates currently flies to **158 destinations in 85 countries**.

***Saudi Arabia :***

- King - **Salman**
- Capital - **Riyadh**
- Currency - **Saudi Arabian riyal**
- Official Language - **Arabic**
- Official Religion - **Islam**

## **6. Canadian student wins 2022 Stockholm Junior Water Prize ( Sept. 2, 2022 )**

**Annabelle M. Rayson**, a **Canadian student**, has won the prestigious **Stockholm Junior Water Prize** for the year 2022 for her research on ways to treat and prevent **harmful algae blooms**.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS :**

- **Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden**, who is the official patron of the award, announced the winner during a ceremony at World Water Week in Stockholm.
- **Harmful algae bloom (HAB)** refers to the uncontrolled growth of algae.
- This causes toxic or harmful effects on organisms such as fish, sheep, marine mammals and birds.

### ***About Stockholm Junior Water Prize :***

- It is an international competition in which students aged 15 to 20 submit solutions to major water challenges.
- It has been organised annually since 1997 by the **Stockholm International Water Institute** in collaboration with Xylem, an American water technology provider.
- The award is a part of **World Water Week**.

## **7. IMF agrees to lend Sri Lanka \$2.9 billion ( Sept. 2, 2022 )**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 1 September approved a **loan of \$2.9 billion** to Sri Lanka.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- It has been extended for a period of four years with conditions on debt restructuring and action on corruption.
- This step has been taken after a week-long discussion between the IMF and Sri Lankan officials.

- The IMF mission was led by Peter Breuer and Masahiro Nozaki who were in Sri Lanka from 24 August to 1 September.
- The newly expanded facility will help Sri Lanka in restoring macroeconomic and debt stability.
- It will help in safeguarding financial stability, reducing corruption and unlocking Sri Lanka's growth potential.
- Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948.
- It is going through a period of skyrocketing inflation, dollar shortage and devaluation of the local currency due to wrong financial decisions.

***About International Monetary Fund (IMF) :***

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), a United Nations (UN) specialised agency, was established in 1944 at the **Bretton Woods Conference** to secure international monetary policies.
- The International Monetary Fund is an organisation with **189 member countries**.
- First Deputy Managing Director- **Geeta Gopinath**
- Headquarters- **Washington, D.C., U.S.**
- Managing Director- **Kristalina Georgieva**
- Chief Economist - **Pierre Olivier Gourinchas**

**8. Super Typhoon Hinnamnor ( Sept. 1, 2022 )**

According to a forecast by the Japan Meteorological Agency, the strongest tropical storm of 2022 '**Super Typhoon Hinnamnor**' is moving toward the East China Sea, threatening Japan's southern islands.

***About Super Typhoon Hinnamnor :***

- It is similar to a category-5 hurricane.
- It is currently moving across the East China Sea, threatening the southern islands of Japan and the eastern coast of China.
- It is bringing about 257 kilometres per hour and gusts of 314 kilometres per hour.
- Hinnamanor is the 11th and strongest tropical storm of 2022.
- The epicentre of the storm was about 643 km south-southeast of the island of Kyushu, Japan.

***About Tropical Storms :***

- Hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons are types of tropical storms.

- But they are given different names depending on where they appear.
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- Hurricanes are tropical storms that form over the North Atlantic Ocean and the Northeast Pacific.
- Cyclones form over the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean.
- Typhoons form over the northwest Pacific Ocean.
- To be classified as a super typhoon, a hurricane needs to attain sustained wind speeds of at least 240 kmph.

## **9. US grounds Chinook chopper fleet over engine fires ( Sept. 1, 2022 )**

The US military has stopped its fleet of **CH-47 Chinook helicopters** from flying due to the threat of a helicopter engine fire.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- The US military operates approximately 400 Chinook helicopters which are medium-lift, multi-role helicopters manufactured by Boeing.
- They perform a variety of tasks in military operations.
- The Chinook fleet has been halted by the US military because it is suspected that some of its engines may catch fire.

### ***India's concern :***

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) too operates a fleet of Chinook helicopters.
- The IAF operates a fleet of 15 Chinook helicopters and it has not grounded them so far.
- Chinook was inducted into IAF in 2019.
- One helicopter of Chinook unit is based in Chandigarh whereas the other is based at Mohanbari airbase in Assam.
- The Indian Air Force has sought details from US defence manufacturer Boeing on the reasons for shutting down its entire fleet of Chinook helicopters.

### ***About Chinook Helicopters :***

- The Boeing CH-47 Chinook is an American twin-engined, heavy-lift helicopter.
- It is developed by the **American rotorcraft company Vertol** and manufactured by **Boeing Vertol** (later known as Boeing Rotorcraft Systems).
- Each helicopter can carry goods and cargo up to 9.6 tonnes.
- It can provide assistance during disaster relief, medical, search and rescue missions, aircraft recovery and parachute drops.

**10. G20 Digital Innovation Network event organised at Bali, Indonesia ( Aug. 31, 2022 )**

The G20 Digital Innovation Network event will be held from **September 2-4** at the **Bali International Convention Centre, Bali, Indonesia.**

**IMPORTANT FACTS -**

- Startups based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) will participate in this program.
- Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) has announced that four startups from Telangana AI Mission have been selected by MeitY to represent India in the G20 Digital Innovation Network (DIN).
- T-AIM is a state government initiative supported by NASSCOM.
- The four startups representing India in the G20 Digital Innovation Network are Aarficus, EduBooks, Unimart and MayaMD.
- All these are supported by the Revv Up program of Telangana Government.

***Goal of the G20 Digital Innovation Network :***

- The forum aims to find 100 most promising startups in 5 priority areas (Healthcare, Renewable Energy, Smart Society, Financial Inclusion and Supply Chain).

***Theme of G20 Digital Innovation Network 2022 :***

- The theme of this year's event is 'The Rise of Digital Economy: Post-Pandemic Recovery and Beyond'.

***G20 Digital Innovation Network program launched :***

- This forum was started by Italy in the year 2021 by selecting the ten best startups in the name of G20 Digital Innovation League.
- This year it has been renamed the G20 Digital Innovation Network.

***About Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) :***

- Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) Mission is an AI mission run by the Government of Telangana, which is operated by NASSCOM.
- Under T-AIM, a program called "Revv Up" is also run to enable AI startup. Which helps in providing a global platform to these startup groups for emerging technologies.
- Revv Up is a free-of-equity-or-cost acceleration program by T-AIM specifically designed for early-stage AI startups.