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1. Sitaram Yechury became general secretary of CPI(M) for the third time in a row (April 11, 2022)

Senior leader of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) Sitaram Yechury has been elected for the third time in a row for the post of general secretary of the party. It was announced at its convention at the party's 23rd Congress Convention on 10 April 2022. The 69-year-old Yechury has been holding the party's top post, i.e. general secretary, since 2015.

- Prior to that, Prakash Karat had held the post of general secretary of the party from 2005 to 2015.
- Yechury was re-elected as General Secretary by the 17-member Politburo and the 85-member Central Committee during the 23rd Party Congress.
- Yechury was first elected as the party general secretary in April 2015 during the 21st Party Congress in Visakhapatnam.
- Thereafter, he was re-elected to the post at the 22nd Party Congress held in Hyderabad on April 18, 2018.

Other Important Responsibilities:

- LDF convener and former acting secretary of Kerala CPI(M) A. Vijayaraghavan has been made the new member of the Politburo from Kerala.
- All India Kisan Sabha president Ashok Dawle and Dalit leader Ramchandra Dom have also been made two new members in the party's highest decision-making body, the Politburo.
- Ramchandra Dom, a former Lok Sabha MP from West Bengal, has become the first Dalit leader to join the Politburo, the highest decision-making body of the CPI(M).

2. Robert Abela sworn in as Malta Prime Minister (March 29, 2022)

Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela was sworn in after his Labour Party won the general election held on 26 March 2022.

He was administered the oath of office on 28 March 2022 by the President of Malta ,**George Vella**.

The Labour Party won the general election with 55.1 percent of the vote, against the Nationalist Parties 41.7 percent.

Malta

- Malta is an island country located in the central Mediterranean sea near Italy.
- It is a member of the European Union.
- Capital : **Valletta**
- Currency : **Euro**
- Prime Minister : Robert Abela

3. Iga Swiatek is the New Women No1 In Tennis (March 28, 2022)

Poland's Iga Swiatek secured the World Number One title in women's tennis by defeating Swiss player Viktorija Golubic at the WTA Miami Open.

- Three time Grand slam champion, Ashleigh Barty's decision to retire and step out of the rankings opened the door for Iga Swiatek to the top of the WTA Rankings.
- Iga became the first Polish player to hold that distinction.
- Swiatek became the first Polish player to win a Grand Slam singles title, at the 2020 French Open. With this, she became the youngest singles champion at the French Open since Rafael Nadal in 2005, and the youngest women's singles champion at a major championship since Maria Sharapova at Wimbledon in 2004.
- Swiatek becomes the 28th woman to reach the Women Tennis Association (WTA) pinnacle and the youngest since Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in 2010.
- **The current number 1 male player in Tennis is Novak Djokovic of Serbia**

About WTA

- The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) is the principal organising body of women's professional tennis.
- The WTA's corporate headquarters is in St. Petersburg, Florida, with its European headquarters in London and its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Beijing.
- The Women's Tennis Association was founded in June 1973 by Billie Jean King.

4. Ritu Khanduri first woman speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly (March 28, 2022)

Ritu Khanduri Bhusan of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was unanimously elected as the first woman speaker of the fifth Uttarakhand legislative Assembly on 26 March 2022.

Ritu Khanduri Bhushan who was elected from the Kotdwar constituency by defeating her Congress' rival Surendra Singh Negi seat by a margin of 3,687 votes.

Important for Exam

- The first woman speaker of a state Legislative Assembly in India was Shanno Devi. She was the speaker of the Haryana State Legislative Assembly from 6 December 1966 to 17 March 1967. She was a member of the Congress party.
- The first woman speaker of the Lok Sabha was Meria Kuamr of the Congress Party . She was the Speaker of Lok Sabha from 2009 to 2014.

Also see the 23 March 2022 post

5. Himanta Biswa Sarma re-elected as BAI president (March 26, 2022)

- Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma was reelected unopposed as the President of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for a new four year term from 2022 to 2026.
- The general body meeting of the BAI was held in Guwahati, Assam on 25 March 2022.
- He is also the Vice-President of the Badminton Asia Council.

Badminton Association of India (BAI)

- Badminton Association of India (BAI) is the governing body for Badminton in India.
- It was formed in 1934 and has been holding national-level tournaments in India since 1936.
- Its Headquarters : **New Delhi**

6. GIF inventor Steve Wilhite dead from COVID-19 complications (March 25, 2022)

Stephen Wilhite, the inventor of the internet-popular short-video format, the Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), died on 14 March 2022 at the age of 74 due to covid -19 complications. His wife gave this information on 24 March 2022 to news media in the United States.

He worked at Compu Serve ,where he developed the Graphics Interchange Format, designed to allow photo transfers over slow modem connections in 1987.

It is now widely used as a means for exchanging jokes, memes and reactions on social media.

7. American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan wins Abel Prize 2022 (March 24, 2022)

American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan is awarded the Abel Prize for the year 2022, by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

- Mr Sullivan is affiliated with the Graduate School and University Centre of the City University of New York and the State University of New York at Stony Brook.
- He is awarded for his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspect.
- Topology is a field of mathematics which was born in the 19th century and has to do with properties of surfaces that do not change when they are deformed.
- His another key breakthrough is in developing a new way of understanding rational homotopy theory

About Abel Prize

The Abel Prize is a prize awarded annually by the King of Norway to one or more outstanding mathematicians. It is named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802–1829) and directly modelled after the Nobel Prizes. It comes with a monetary award of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (NOK).

- First Awarded - 2003
- Indian American mathematician SR Srinivasa Varadhan, who is known for his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations, was awarded the Abel Prize in 2007.

8. Former CJI Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passes away (March 24, 2022)

Ramesh Chandra Lahoti who served as the 35th Chief Justice of India, from 1 June 2004 to 1 November 2005, passed away at the age of 81.

- Justice Lahoti also served as an independent director on the Board of directors of the Press Trust of India.
- He was also an arbitrator appointed by the Government of India in the ₹20,000-crore high-profile tax dispute case with telecom major Vodafone.
- While condoling his death, the Prime Minister of India remembered him for his emphasis on ensuring speedy justice to underprivileged

Important for Exam

- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- As per convention, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor – a practice, which is strictly based on seniority. The Union Law Minister forwards the recommendation to the Prime Minister who, in turn, advises the President.
- However this convention has been broken twice. In 1973, Justice A. N. Ray was appointed superseding 3 senior judges. Also, in 1977 Justice Mirza Hameedullah Beg was appointed as the chief justice superseding Justice Hans Raj Khanna
- In accordance with Article 145 of the Constitution of India and the Supreme Court Rules of Procedure of 1966, chief justice is responsible for the allocation of cases and appointment of constitutional benches which deal with important matters of law.
- Retirement Age of Supreme Court judges - 65 Years
- Total Strength of Supreme Court - CJI + 33 Other Judges
- The 48th and present chief justice is N. V. Ramana

9. Ashish Jha appointed United States covid response coordinators (March 19, 2022)

Indian American Dr Ashish Jha has been appointed as the covid response coordinator by the American President Joe Biden.

Dr Jha was born in Madhubani in Bihar and was the Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health.

10. Sri Lankan finance minister Basil Rajapakse visit to India (March 17, 2022)

The Sri Lankan finance minister **Basil Rajapakse** visited India on 16 and 17th March 2022. It was his second visit to India after his December 2021 visit.

Sri Lanka is facing a severe economic crisis and Sri Lanka wants economic assistance from India. India has already provided a \$500-million line of credit for purchasing fuel and a currency swap of \$400 million.

For more detail kindly see 3 December 2021, 14 January 2022 post also