

CURRENT AFFAIRS



May 2022

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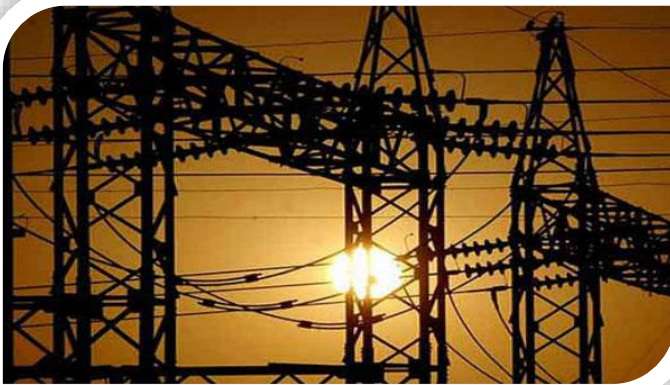
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Indian States Grappling with Power Shortage



India is staring at a power crisis as coal reserves in several states are quickly running out amid surging demand for electricity due to intense heatwaves in several parts of the country. Acute coal shortages are triggering blackouts in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

The country faced a similar energy crisis in October last year when coal reserves

dwindled due to global logistical and internal production issues. It must be noted that India fulfills most of its coal needs domestically.

Many states have reported about low stocks of coal. As many as 12 states such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Jharkhand and Haryana are facing power cuts because of less coal supply.

"Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Jharkhand are among the states facing widespread power cuts due to coal scarcity. In the first half of April 2022, the domestic power demand hit a 38-year high for the month.

According to the report, coal shortage has been observed in all four plants in Karnataka, including the one operated by NTPC. Apart from these, only 11 per cent or 1.87 lakh tonnes of stock is left in the three state-run plants as against the normal stock of 16.99 lakh tonnes.

Why is India Facing such a Power Crisis?

- The demand for electricity is high in the months of April to October, due to which it is common to witness a crisis. Experts said that such a problem happens every year, but this year it has aggravated due to the increase in global coal prices and supply disruption.

- The thermal power companies are facing shortage of low ash coal because of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war as they were unable to get coal loads from Russia.
- The crisis comes at a time when demand for electricity is high due to heatwaves in several north Indian states. The electricity demand in the fourth quarter of FY2022 was 187 GW, while it was recorded at 194 GW between April 1-12, 2022.

Steps Taken by Government

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday chaired a meeting with Power Minister RK Singh, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav following reports of coal shortage reported by many states.
- The Railways Minister has been directed to rush coal loads to the thermal power plants whose coal stocks are on minimum level. The government is also mulling to explore the possibility of cheap coal from other countries to meet the shortage that arose after the Russia Ukraine war

Boris Johnson Visit to India

The Prime Minister of The United Kingdom (UK), Boris Johnson, was on an official visit to India (Delhi & Gujarat) on April 21-22, 2022 on the invitation of India PM Narendra Modi. This is his first visit to India as Prime Minister of UK.

It should be noted that in the first leg of his two-day visit to India, he visited Gujarat. He is the first British PM to visit Gujarat.

Both sides also signed 2 Government to Government MoUs and 4 NonGovernmental MoUs.

India and the UK have reaffirmed their commitment to Cyber Security Partnership for vision 2030 for an open, accessible, secure and peaceful cyberspace in Indo-Pacific.

Both sides agreed to complete the free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of the year i.e. by October 2022. It will boost annual bilateral trade immensely.

JCB India's new £ 100 million factory for exports was inaugurated in Vadodara, Gujarat by the Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and British PM Boris Johnson in the presence of the Chairman of J C Bamford Excavators, Lord Bamford.



'PM Mitra' PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA)

A national conference on PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA) scheme was held recently. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Textiles.

Key Points:

- Officials of 13 state governments outlined 18 proposals to set up PM Mitra Parks in their respective states.
- Each state government showcased its strength in the textile sector and detailed the incentives being provided. Industry representatives also shared their suggestions and apprehensions regarding PM Mitra scheme.

Features of PM MITRA Scheme:

- PM Mitra Park will provide an opportunity to create an integrated textile value chain from spinning, weaving, processing/dyeing and printing to garment manufacturing at one place. The objective of this scheme is to generate about 1 lakh direct and 2 lakh indirect jobs per park.
- The sites for PM MITRA Parks will be selected on the basis of objective criteria through challenge method. Proposals from States having ready availability of contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcels of 1,000+ acres along with other textile related facilities would be welcomed.

Vision:

- PM MITRA scheme is inspired by '5F Vision - Farm to Fiber to Factory to Fashion to Foreign'.
- In 2021, the government has set up seven 'PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel- PM MITRA' parks in greenfield/brownfield sites with an outlay of Rs 4,445 crore for a period of seven years till 2027-28. The establishment has been approved.
- The Government of India has launched the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), this scheme provides assistance in the creation of world-class infrastructure facilities for the establishment of textile units.
- These parks are important for attracting 'Foreign Direct Investment' (FDI) in the country. India's textile sector received foreign direct investment of Rs 20,468.62 crore from April 2000 to September 2020, which is only 0.69% of the total foreign investment inflows during the period.

Textile Sector of India:

- It is one of the oldest industries in the Indian economy and is a storehouse and carrier of traditional skills, heritage and culture. It contributes 2.3% to Indian Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 7% to industrial production, 12% to India's export earnings and over 21% of total employment.
- India is the sixth largest producer of technical textiles (the largest producer of cotton and jute in the world) with a global share of 6%.
- Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications in various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, health care, industrial protection, personal protection, etc.
- India is also the second largest silk producer in the world, accounting for 95% of the world's hand-woven fabrics.

Major Initiatives:

- Revised Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)
- Integrated Textile Park Scheme (SITP)
- Able plan.
- Northeast Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS)
- Power-Tex India
- Silk Composite Plan
- Jute ICARE



NITI Aayog's 1st SECI Round -I April 2022: Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab top among Larger States

On April 11, 2022, NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has launched the 1st State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I April 2022 at an event chaired by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. It is based on 2019-20 data.

SECI is the first index that aims to track the efforts made by States and Union Territories (UTs) in the climate and energy sector.

The states of Gujarat, Kerala, and Punjab are the top 3 among larger states while Goa, Tripura, and Manipur are top 3 among smaller states.

Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.

There are 11 Front Runners, 11 Achievers, and 13 Aspirants states/UTs.

About NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):

- Establishment- 2015
- CEO-Amitabh Kant
- Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

SJVN Signs Pact with BHEL, REMC to Develop Renewable Projects for Indian Railways

SJVN (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam) Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of the Government of India has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with engineering firm BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited) and REMC Limited (Railway Energy Management Company) to develop renewable energy projects for the Indian Railways.

- The signing of the MoU would bring in a new age of more efficient power consumption in the Indian Railways, as well as more competitive tariffs for the benefit of consumers.
- The MoU was signed by RK Gupta, CGM, BDE SJVN Limited; Rupesh Kumar, GM, REMC and Sudripto De, AGM, BHEL.

Key Points :

- According to the MoU inked, all parties will collaborate to harness their core strengths in project development to establish renewable energy projects for Indian Railways.
- This pact would help SJVN achieve its renewable energy target, as well as Indian Railways' goal of being a net-zero carbon emission mission by 2030.

- SJVN now has twelve solar power projects with a combined capacity of 3,065 MW (megawatts) in various phases of development, with a total portfolio of more than 16,900 MW.
- This massive portfolio development has led to SJVN's new shared vision of 5000 MW of installed capacity by 2023, 25000 MW by 2030 and 50,000 MW by 2040.

Number of Indian Patents Filed Exceeds the Number of International Patent Filings for the First Time in Over a Decade: Govt. of India

For the first time in the last 11 years, the number of domestic patent filings has surpassed the number of international patent filings at the Indian Patent Office in the January-March 2022 quarter, marking a watershed moment in the IP innovation ecosystem for India.

- Of the total 19,796 patent applications filed, 10,706 were filed by Indian applicants compared to 9,090 by non-Indian applicants.
- India will soon enter the top 25 positions of the Global Innovation Index, owing to the combined efforts of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Intellectual Property (IP) Office.

Highlights:

- Government of India's initiatives that boosted IP regime in India: Fee concessions of 10% rebate on online filing; 80% fee concession

for startups, small entities, and educational institutions & provisions for expedited examination for startups and MSMEs, among other categories.

- The framework set by National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy, as well as the government's initiatives, have led to the following achievements for India:

NCW Launched Anti Human Trafficking Cell to Tackle Human Trafficking Cases

National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched Anti-Human Trafficking Cell to improve effectiveness in tackling human trafficking cases. The cell aims to raise awareness among women and girls and to facilitate capacity building and training of anti-trafficking units. The cell also aims to increase the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies.

The complaints related to human trafficking received by the NCW will be addressed by this cell.

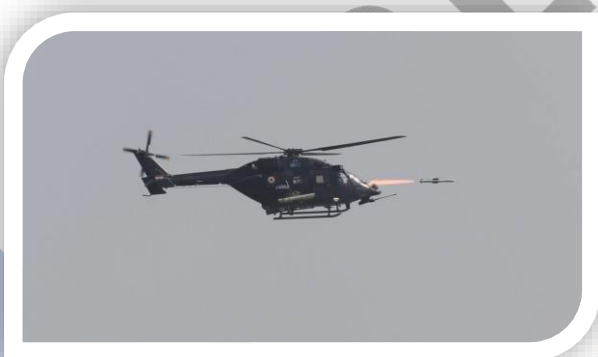
- This cell will improve monitoring mechanism and encourage government agencies on measures adopted for prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of victims.
- The cell will support the survivors of trafficking in rebuilding their lives by providing need-based training and by organising capacity building programmes to prevent re-traumatisation of victims.

NHA Launched Unified Health Interface Under ABDM

The National Health Authority launched the Unified Health Interface (UHI) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). UHI is an open network designed to enable interoperable digital health service delivery like tele-consultations. At present there are no open protocols defined for delivery of digital health services. The UHI is powered and versioned by Decentralised Health Protocols (DHP) built by an open community of developers and deployed on a gateway built by NHA.

- Currently NHA develops digital health solutions for hospitals, doctors, labs or consumers can create new solutions using DHP and become a part of UHI network.
- A version of the open protocols is available on Github platform at <https://github.com/dhp-project> and may be used to build health service applications.

Anti-Tank Guided Missile Helina successfully Flight Tested at Pokhran, Rajasthan



On April 11, 2022, an Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) 'Helina (Helicopter based NAG)' was successfully flight tested from an

indigenously-developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) at high-altitude ranges in Pokhran, Rajasthan. Guided by an Infrared Imaging Seeker (IIR) operating in the Lock on Before Launch mode, it successfully engaged a simulated tank target.

- The test was jointly conducted by the scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF).
- It was a part of user validation trials of the third generation 'fire and forget' class missiles developed by DRDO.
- Helina is Launched from the Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

Water Conclave 2022

The 'Water Conclave-2022' in Dibrugarh, Assam jointly with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was organized by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to discuss new possibilities of cooperation in the waterways sector between different nations. is being organized.

In line with the aspirations of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the Water Conclave aims for rapid development of multimodal projects in the North-Eastern region to energize economic activities and increase employment generation.

It is worth mentioning that India's bilateral trade and investment can be increased through cooperation in the waterways sector. FICCI and International Chamber of Commerce are the industry partners for this two-day conclave.

Inauguration of Prime Minister's Museum (Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya) on Ambedkar Jayanti

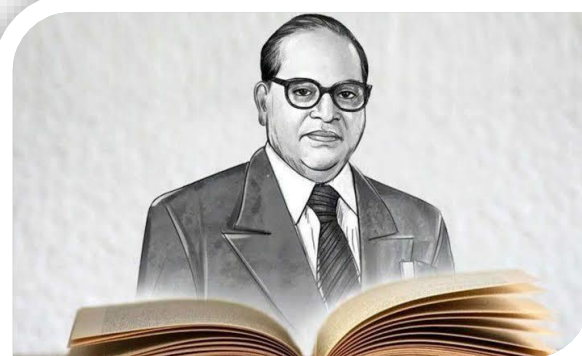


The Prime Minister's Museum (Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya) was inaugurated on Ambedkar Jayanti by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on April 4, 2022. This museum is not just limited to the achievements and contributions of the Prime Ministers. It is also a symbol of the strengthening of the country's democracy in spite of every odd situation, the strength of the democratic values that have been flourishing in our culture for thousands of years and the strong faith in the constitution. All the information for the museum has been collected with the help of institutions like Doordarshan, Prasar Bharati, Parliament TV, Film Division, Media Houses (Indian and Foreign) and Ministry of Defence, foreign news agencies etc. The contents of this museum are being displayed using Virtual Reality, Holograms, Augmented Reality, Interactive Kiosks, Multimedia, Smartphone Applications, Computerized Kinetic Statues, Interactive Screens etc.

India Elected to 4 Major United Nations Economic and Social Council Bodies

India has been elected to four major bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, including the Science and Technology Commission for Development. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations system established by the United Nations Charter in 1945. It also includes 54 members of the United Nations elected by the General Assembly. It is the central forum of the United Nations for dialogue and innovative discussions on sustainable development. It coordinates the work of 14 specialized UN agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes, and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and member states.

Tamil Nadu named B.R. Declared to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti as 'Equality Day' every year



Tamil Nadu has awarded B.R. Declared to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti as 'Equality Day' every year. A full size bronze statue of Babasaheb will be installed at Ambedkar

Memorial in Chennai. Also, some selected books about Ambedkar will be translated into Tamil and published. September 17, the birth anniversary of Periyar, has already been declared as Social Justice Day by the Tamil Nadu government. Born on April 14, 1891, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer. He campaigned against social discrimination towards untouchables (Dalits) and supported the rights of women and workers. He died on 6 December 1956. In the year 1990, Baba Saheb was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

'Svanidhi Se Samridhi' scheme launched in additional 126 cities across the country

Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the scheme 'Svanidhi Se Samridhi' in 126 cities in addition to 14 States/UTs in the presence of senior officials of States/UTs and various Central Ministries.

- 'Svanidhi Se Samridhi' is an additional scheme of PMSVANIDHI which was launched on 4 January 2021 in Phase-I in 125 cities, covering around 35 lakh street vendors and their families. Also, 22.5 lakh schemes have been approved, which include Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, 16 lakh insurance benefits under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and 2.7 lakh pension benefits under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana.
- Keeping in view the success of Phase-I, MoHUA has launched this scheme in additional 126 cities of the country with an

aim to cover 28 lakh street vendors and their families with a target of 20 lakh total plan approvals for the financial year 2022-23. expansion has begun. The remaining cities will be gradually linked to this scheme.

Cabinet Approval on April 13, 2022

On April 13, 2022, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals:

- CCEA has approved the continuation of revamped Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) i.e.
- 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026 with a financial outlay of Rs 5911 crore.
- The Union Cabinet approved the policy for use of land acquired under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 [CBA Act]. Under this, the value of such land will be unlocked by utilizing it for the development and setting up of infrastructure relating to coal and energy without transfer of ownership from government companies.
- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Ministry of Coal, launched a web portal to ensure real time reporting of accidents occurring in Coal Mines. The launch was made during the 47th meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for MoC signed between DoWR, RD&GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in the areas of Decentralized Domestic Waste Water Management.

- The Union Cabinet also approved the signing of Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Manitoba Securities Commission, Canada.

India, Maldives ink seven MoUs under Indian Grant Assistance Scheme to implement HICDP

On April 18, 2022, India and Maldives signed seven Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for projects to be built under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) through local bodies.

- These projects are worth a total grant of 26.8 million Rufiyaa (equivalent to approximately USD 1.7 million), and will promote health, sports, youth empowerment & heritage preservation along with socioeconomic development of Maldives.
- This signing of MoU was on the lines of the announcement made during the official visit of India's Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to Addu City, Maldives in March 2022.

Signatories :

- Indian High Commissioner, Munu Mahawar; Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid, and the respective implementing agencies.

NSCS Organised NCX-India exercise to promote Cyber Literacy and Cyber Hygiene among strategic leaders

National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) is organising a hybrid exercise over a period of ten days from 18 to 29 April 2022 "National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India)" for Government officials and Critical Sector organisations to strengthen India's capacity against Cyber Security Threats.

Objective :

- To train senior management and technical personnel of Government/Critical Sector organisations and agencies on contemporary cyber threats and handling cyber incidents and response.
- Shri Ajit Doval, KC, National Security Advisor (NSA) has inaugurated the exercise along with Lt General Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator and Dr. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary DRDO.

'Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization' Conference started in Surat, Gujarat

On 18th April 2022, The 3-day "Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization" conference has a grand opening event at the Surat International Exhibition & Convention Centre (SIECC), Surat, Gujarat. Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs took part in the events as the chief guest.

- The conference, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, Government of Gujarat with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Limited., under the clarion call

of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)", will be held from 18 th to 20 th April 2022.

Highlights:

- The winners of the India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020 were felicitated during the event.
- The SCM also released the Integrated portal of MoHUA, AMPLIFI Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive and Future-ready urban India, which will provide valuable data about Indian cities About Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA):
- Union Minister- Hardeep Singh Puri (Rajya Sabha- Uttar Pradesh) Minister of State- Kaushal Kishore (Constituency- Mohanlalganj, Uttar Pradesh)

ICG Commissioned 1st ALH MK-III squadron in Bhubaneswar



The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned the 1st Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK-III squadron in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The maritime capabilities took part along the coasts of West Bengal and Odisha. Mk-III was manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

(HAL). The variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV. These helicopters are equipped with Surveillance Radar, Electro Optic Pod, Medical Intensive Care Unit, High Intensity SearchLight, SAR Homer, Loud Hailer and Machine Gun. In 2021 three ALH Mk-III were inducted into the stables of the Indian Coast Guard. By May 2022, ICG is expected to induct 10 new ALH.

- The Squadron was commissioned by Director General VS Pathania, PTM, TM, Director General Indian Coast Guard at ICG Air Enclave. The 830 Squadron is commanded by Commandant Anurup Singh, TM and manned by 11 Officers and 46 men.
- The role of ALH MK-III is suited for high altitude operations.

President Ram Nath Kovind Gives Assent To Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill & Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill and the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill. Here on, the bill will be termed as Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 and the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022

Objective:

- The objective of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 is to authorise for taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters and to preserve records.

Actinimenes koyas: New Shrimp Species Discovered Off Agatti Islands, Lakshadweep



Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) have discovered a new species of shrimp which has been named "Actinimenes koyas" to honour Koyas, the local community on the Lakshadweep islands, Arabian Sea.

Discovery:

- The new species was collected at a depth of 1.0-2.0 m from the coral atoll of Agatti Island, a part of the Lakshadweep group of islands by a team of scientists comprising Purushothaman Paramasivam, A. Dhinakaran, T.T. Ajith Kumar and Kuldeep K. Lal.
- The new species was discovered by the team during their work on documenting the aquatic genetic resources with special attention on fish and shell fish resources.

About Actinimenes koyas :

- Actinimenes koyas, the new species is closely related to other shrimp species in morphological traits and it is distinguished from the other species by the structural

variation in the fourth sternal plate with a median notch.

- The new species is associated with the sea anemone, *Heteractis magnifica* and this is the 2nd representative of the genus *Actinimenes* Āuriš and Horká described from the Arabian sea

Digital bus Launched



On April 20, 2022, Maharashtra's state environment minister, Aaditya Thackeray inaugurated Mumbai's first fully digital bus, which will run on the Gateway of India to Churchgate route. It has been launched with a unique 'tap-in tap-out' feature. This facility will be implemented in all 10 buses of this route and later it will be extended to all 438 routes of the city. This is the country's first 100% digital bus service and aims to enhance the digitization of the bus ticketing system. The system will provide convenience and ease to the passengers as they will be able to tap-in using their smart card or through the 'Chalo' app on the smartphone. If they use the app to tap out after completing the journey, they will receive a receipt on their mobile phone and can also get their ticket if they use a smart card.

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 has replaced the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920. Several modifications have been made to control the crimes happening in India.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022 :

- The Bill seeks to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 passed by Parliament. Later the Act was amended in 2011 by Delhi Legislative Assembly to trifurcate the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi into,
- North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC).
- South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).
- East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC).

Agri Minister launches 2 Redeveloped Portals on export/import of Agricultural Commodities & Pesticides Registration

On April 18, 2022, Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) launched two redeveloped portals, one for the Computerized Registration of pesticide (CROP) and the other for Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS).

- These portals will help in taking forward digital Agriculture and Ease of doing Business.

Redevelopment of Online Portals :

- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW), MoA&FW through the

Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQS), Faridabad (Haryana) has been catering to Indian exporters and importers of agriculture commodities and Indian Pesticide Industry, through its two portals viz. CROP, and Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS).

- Now, this current launch is the redevelopment of these two online portals for greater transparency in the existing online system.
- The PQMS portal provides a transparent system with no physical touch points for the applicants and ensures convenience to the users, through a online system including e-payments and uploading of documents, online accreditation etc.
- Similarly, the re-developed CROP portal will help in ease of doing business and provide greater and timely Crop protection solutions to farmers of the country.

India's first commercial-grade green hydrogen production plant

Oil India Limited (OIL) has set up India's first commercial-grade green hydrogen production plant in Jorhat, Assam. The plant will use renewable energy from Oil India's 500kW solar plant pump station to produce hydrogen. The daily production capacity of this new pilot project started is 10 kg. Which is increased to 30 kg. will be done daily.

Green hydrogen has the potential to replace fossil fuels. A detailed study has been undertaken by Oil India in collaboration with IIT Guwahati on

the blending of Natural Gas and Green Hydrogen and its impact on the existing OIL infrastructure. The company also plans to study commercial applications of blended fuels. The electricity used to produce green hydrogen in this plant is generated by an existing 500kW solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) electrolyzer array. This plant is a big step towards the country's goal of becoming self-reliant in the energy sector.

Karnataka: SAANS Initiative to Successfully Neutralize Pneumonia

Karnataka Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar launched 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully- SAANS' on April 20, 2022.

- SAANS is a campaign launched to ensure early detection and greater awareness of pneumonia in children under five years of age. Pneumonia is a lung infection caused by a viral, bacterial or fungal infection.
- Pneumonia in India continues to pose a health hazard to children who are below five years of age and 15 percent of children under five years of age in the country die due to pneumonia. The state of Karnataka is creating community awareness of pneumonia through mass media and digital campaigns. The cooperation of ASHA workers is also being taken in this regard.
- Facility-level management for severe pneumonia cases is being strengthened across the state. Along with this skill stations are being set up and skill based training is also

being imparted to the healthcare providers. Children under the age of five are actively being screened by all healthcare providers in the state for early detection of pneumonia.

India Post Payments Bank launches 'Fincluvation'

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence and the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, India Post Payments Bank, a 100% state-owned body under the Department of Posts (DOP), launched 'Fincluvation' - co-creation of solutions for financial inclusion and Announced the launch of a joint initiative to collaborate with the fintech startup community for innovation.

- Fincluvation will allow startups to work with IPPB and Department of Posts experts to develop solutions and conduct pilot projects using the postal network and technology capabilities of IPPB.
- Successful pilot projects can mature into long-term partnerships. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been set up under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, with 100% equity owned by the Government of India.
- IPPB was launched on 1st September, 2018 by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The bank has been established with a vision to make the most accessible, affordable and reliable bank for the common man in India.
- The basic objective of IPPB is to remove barriers for the unbanked and underbanked and reach the last mile by leveraging the network of 160,000 post offices (145,000 in rural areas) and 400,000 postal workers.

NITI Aayog releases draft battery swapping policy

NITI Aayog has released the draft Battery Swapping Policy for the comments of the concerned parties. During the COP 26 conference in Glasgow, India had committed to reduce carbon emission intensity by 45 percent by 2030 and non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW.

The road transport sector is one of the major contributors to carbon dioxide emissions. One-third of the particulate matter emissions come from the road transport sector.

NITI Aayog said that it is important to move towards clean energy led by electric vehicles to make the transport sector carbon-free.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech for 2022-23 had announced that the government would introduce a battery swapping policy and inter-operability standards to increase efficiency in the electronic vehicle ecosystem. NITI Aayog has sought suggestions from all concerned by June 5 this year.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visits various institutions in Gujarat

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is on a busy visit to Gujarat in the first leg of his India visit. He along with State Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited Gujarat Biotechnology University at GIFT City, Gandhinagar and also visited JCB Company's plant at Halol near Vadodara. The Gujarat Biotechnology University is being built at a cost of about two billion rupees. It is being built in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology of Gujarat and the University of Edinburgh, UK. The

Prime Minister of Britain visited the Research Center of Gujarat Biotechnology University and interacted with the researchers and faculty. Mr. Johnson also met Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group in Ahmedabad. The Prime Minister of Britain also visited the Sabarmati Ashram and paid tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He also visited Akshardham Temple in Gandhinagar.

APEDA & NRDC inks MoU to Boost Export Value Chain in Agriculture

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) mandated to jointly infuse and disseminate technology in the areas of Climate-Resilient Agriculture related to Zero-Carbon emission farming to produce Carbon-free food products for exports.

Key Points:

- The MoU aims to boost the export value chain by utilising the expertise of both APEDA and NRDC, to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and its allied sectors, for better value addition to the stakeholders.
- Both APEDA and NRDC will collaborate to commercialise the embedded technologies in the field of Agri and Food processing.
- The technologies involves low cost farm machinery, user-friendly and energyefficient tools for small scale farmers, promoting and supporting Agri Start-ups associated with the NRDC Incubation Centre (NRDC-IC) for engagement in agriexports and

strengthening the Startup ecosystem and nomination of expert resources of NRDC/APEDA for mutual knowledge sharing.

Signatories:

- The MoU was signed by Sudhanshu Secretary, APEDA and Commodore (Rtd) Amit Rastogi, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NRDC, in the presence of M. Angamuthu, IAS, Chairman of APEDA, at New Delhi.

India's First Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit 2022

Government of India (GoI) & Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) organised its first Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIS) - 2022 held at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 20 April 2022 to 22 April 2022. The summit witnessed Letter of Intents (LoIs) worth more than Rs 9000 crore. The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- The event witnessed participation of industry leaders, academicians, and scholars to promote traditional medicines, and systems.
- Ministry of Ayush has received LoI from 28 companies to invest Rs. 6000 crores
- More than 30 FMCG companies participated in GAIS and is expected to create around \$5.5\$ lakhs jobs and that will positively impact the lives of more than 76 lakh people.

Aim:

- The aim of the summit is to attract "lucrative investments" to build India as the 'global Ayush destination' in the world through

agreements with international and national institutions

- The ceremony for the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Centre for Traditional Medicine will be launched at Jamnagar in Gujarat
- About Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).
- Union Ministry of AYUSH - Sarbananda Sonowal (Rajya Sabha Assam) Ministry of State - Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai (Surendranagar, Gujarat)

National Conference on Agriculture-Kharif Campaign - 2022: Govt Sets Foodgrain Production Target at Record 328 Million Tonnes for 2022-23 Crop Year

On April 19, 2022, The Government at the National Conference on Agriculture- Kharif Campaign - 2022, has set the foodgrain production target at a record level of 328 million Tonnes for the Crop year 2022-23 (July 2022-June 2023).

- The conference was inaugurated & Chaired by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, in order to review the progress of the rabi (winter) season crops and plan for the Kharif (summer) crops, held at National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi.

Targets:

- The set target is 3.8 percent higher as compared to the previous year's output (Crop year 2021-22).

- Of the total Production target of 328 Million Tonnes - 163.15 million tonnes is set for Kharif season crops and 164.85 million tonnes for the Rabi season crops.
- For the Kharif Season, Rice production target has been kept at 112 million tonnes, Maize at 23.10 million tonnes, Pulses at 10.55 million tonnes and Oilseeds at 26.89 million tonnes.
- Target for production of pulses and oilseeds have been fixed at 295.5 and 413.4 lakh tonnes in 2022-23.

PM Modi Released Commemorative Coin & Postage Stamp on \$400 t h\$ Anniversary 9th Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur

On 21st April 2022, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin and postage stamp to mark the 400 th birth anniversary of 9th Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur. He also addressed the nation on the occasion of the 400th Parkash Purab celebrations at Red Fort, Delhi and remembered the sacrifice of Guru "Guru Tegh Bahadur" who stood against Aurangzeb's tyranny to protect the dignity of their culture.

- He was popularly known as 'Hind di Chaddar', Jagat Guru. He was born in Amritsar and breathed his last in Delhi. He was the youngest son of Sri Guru Hargobind Ji.
- The programme shall be organized by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC).

New vessel 'Urja Pravaha' inducted into Indian Coast Guard

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Urja Pravaha, an auxiliary barge was inducted into ICG at Shoft Shipyard in Bharuch, Gujarat, arrived in Kochi, Kerala on April 22, 2022. It will be based in Kochi under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala and Mahe), in addition to auxiliary barge Urja Shrota, which was inducted in 2017.

About Urja Pravaha:

- The Auxiliary Barge Urja Pravaha is 36 meters long and is designed to carry cargo ship Fuel, aviation Fuel and fresh water.
- The barge will be deployed at far flung areas in the Maritime Operational area including Exclusive Economic Zone and Lakshadweep/Minicoy islands.

Chadh Radhika Gupta;Ukrainian Vice PM Mykhailo Fedorov Among WEF's 2022 Class of Young Global Leader

Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) leader Raghav Chadha, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from Punjab, Edelweiss Mutual Fund(MF) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Radhika Gupta and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov are among the World Economic Forum(WEF)'s Young Global Leaders(YGLs) Class of 2022.

- On 20th April 2022, WEF unveiled the new class of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) - 2022 featuring the world's most promising 109 Young Global Leaders under the age of 40 involved in activities ranging from green energy to health equity to refugee rights and education reform.

DefConnect 2.0: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Launches iDEX-prime, DISC 6 To Strengthen Cutting-Edge Defence Technologies

On April 22, 2022, Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh inaugurated DefConnect 2.0, a celebration of the growth of the Indian defence start-up ecosystem, in New Delhi (Delhi), with the objective of attracting innovators and investors from India's leading industries in the defence sector.

During the occasion, he has launched 'Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime' and the 6th Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 6) with 38 Problem Statements.

- The iDEX-Prime is designed at supporting projects in the ever-growing defence start-ups that require support above Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore.

Background :

- In 2018, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), an operational framework of the Defence Innovation Organization (DIO), a special-purpose vehicle under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Minister of Defence (MoD) - Rajnath Singh (Lucknow constituency, Uttar Pradesh)
- Departments under MoD - Department of Defence (DoD); Department of Military Affairs (DMA); Department of Defence Production (DDP); Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D); Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW)

13th National Panchayati Raj Day - 24th April 2022

National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is annually observed across India on 24th April to celebrate the constitutional status accorded to the Panchayati Raj system of India. The observance of the day is annually organised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. 24th April 2022 marks the celebration of the 13th National Panchayati Raj Day.

Background:

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj annually commemorates the 24th of April as the National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD), which marks the historic day on which decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj, through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force.
- 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into force on 24th April 1993.
- The first edition of National Panchayati Raj Day was observed on 24th April 2010.

Govt amends DAP 2020 to Promote Make in India in Defence Procurement

On the basis of the approvals accorded by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 has been amended to further promote Make in India and Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence; and enable Ease of Doing Business.

The amendments are in respect of the following: All requirements of the three Defence Services and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will be met indigenously. The import of defence equipment

or sourcing from Foreign Industry of capital acquisitions will be an exception and undertaken with specific approval of DAC/Union Defence Minister.

Domestic industry will not have to furnish Integrity Pact Bank Guarantee (IPBG) for acquisitions costing more than Rs 100 crore. This IPBG waiving off is on the recommendations of Ministry of Finance in order to reduce the financial burden on the domestic industry.

- Instead of IPBG, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be used as a bid security for all acquisition cases with Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) cost more than Rs 100 crore.
- EMD is not required from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- The total order quantities in acquisition situations will be distributed between shortlisted vendors to encourage broader involvement; and a broad base indigenous defence manufacturing sector in the country.
- The Defence services will offer a certificate to technically qualified bidders who have not been awarded a contract, confirming that the product has been successfully trial-tested. This will allow vendors to explore other markets.
- The procurement process under DAP 2020's iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) method has been simplified to allow more startups to contribute. With this simplification, time taken from grant of AoN to signing of contract will be reduced to 22 weeks.

MoU between CSIR and iCreate to harness India's tech strength

On April 25, 2022, The Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel, presided over the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing between the Gujarat Government's Technology Incubator, iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) (Government of India's Premier Research and Development body) intends to foster rapid economic development and help create world class start-ups by harnessing the country's technological strength.

Key Points:

- Under the MoU following cooperation were intended -
- iCreate to help establish new start-up incubators at select CSIR labs to boost commercialisation of CSIR's innovations.
- CSIR provides access to its equipment, facilities as well as scientific manpower to iCreate's start-ups.
- CSIR and iCreate to jointly work on creating tech innovation-based commercial solutions to address large challenges facing the country.
- CSIR will explore new ways of financially supporting innovative start-ups.

Govt Eases Certain Norms under EPCG Scheme to Promote Ease of Doing Business

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has relaxed certain norms under chapter 5 of Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme Handbook of Procedures (2015-20) issued under

Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20, in order to reduce compliance requirements and facilitate ease of doing business.

The Objective of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

What is the Change?

- Under the EPCG scheme, Capital Goods imports will be allowed duty free provided, the exporter or the authorisation holder has to export finished goods worth six times of the actual duty saved in value terms in six years.
- Annual Reporting of Export Obligation (EO) - Exporters have to file the EO before June 30 of each year instead of April 30 of each year. However, a late fee of Rs 5,000 will be attracted if there is any delay.
- Request for extension of EO should be filed within six months of expiry instead of the earlier prescribed period of 90 days. However, a late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorisation will be levied to those who file EO after six months and up to six years.
- Requests for extension of block-wise EO - should also be filed within six months of expiry or else a late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorisation will be levied to those who file EO after six months and up to six years.
- Also, the applications made for extension of EO after six years will be subject to a fee of Rs 5,000 per year. Earlier, no specified time limit was prescribed, leading to discretionary interpretations.

- Further, the facility to pay customs duty through scrip under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP), Rebate of State & Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) for default payment under the EPCG scheme has been withdrawn.

PM Modi Inaugurates 500 KW Solar Power Plant in Palli; Palli becomes India's 1st Carbon-Neutral Panchayat



Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the 500 KW solar power plant at Palli Village in Samba District, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K), during his visit to Palli Gram Panchayat on the occasion of 13 th National Panchayati Raj Day (24th April 2022).

With this inauguration, Palli becomes India's first carbon-neutral Panchayat.

About the 500 KW solar power plant:

- The project was completed at a cost of Rs 2.75 crore and it was installed in a record time of around 2-3 weeks.
- The electricity generated by the plant will be distributed to the village which has a daily demand of 2,000 units.

- The 1500 solar panels placed across an area of 6,408 square meters will provide clean electricity to around 340 houses in the model panchayat under the 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme.

India produced 301.9 million tonnes of steel during January-March this year with a growth of 5.9 per cent

India has produced 31.9 million tonnes of steel during January to March this year with a growth of 5.9%. In March alone, steel production stood at 19 million tonnes with a growth rate of 4.4%. According to data released by the World Steel Association, India is the only country among the top 10 steel producing countries in the world, which has registered an increase in steel production in the period January to March as compared to the same period last year. Brazil is the only other country in the top 10 countries to have registered an increase in the month of March.

Meghalaya's "e-Proposal System" initiative won the UN Award – World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum Prize 2022

The "e-Proposal System" initiative of the Planning Department of the Government of Meghalaya has won the UN Award – World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum Prize 2022. The "e-Proposal System" is a part of the Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture, which eliminates 75% of the physical work of files in all government departments of the state.

The Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA) project was launched with an aim to

improve governance and service delivery for the people of the state by harnessing the power of various digital technologies.

- Enterprise Architecture (EA) is the process by which different organizations standardize and organize their information technology related infrastructure to achieve different business objectives. This initiative of Meghalaya State Government is spread across 6 different pillars which are Human Resources, Governance, Priority Sector, Entrepreneurship, Environment and Infrastructure. Through this initiative, Meghalaya will be made a high income state by 2030.

Dharmendra Pradhan Launched 'Mandate Document' for National Curriculum Framework

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a "mandate document" for National Curriculum Framework (NCF) under the new National Education Policy (NEP) at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- It was a step towards decolonisation of the Indian education system.

About National Curriculum Framework (NCF):

The National Education Policy 2020 is the 'Philosophy', NCF is the 'Pathway' and the mandate document, which is the 'Constitution' to champion the changing demands of the 21 st century and impact the future positively.

- NCF is also a society document, enabled by setting up an app-based process so that every citizen of the country can give their suggestions.

- NCF is guided by the National Steering Committee (NSC) chaired by Dr K Kasturirangan and supported by the Mandate Group, in addition to the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT).
- NCF includes the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE)
- The National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care & Education (NCFECE)
- The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE)
- The National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE)
- India's NEP 2020 based education model will serve as a benchmark for emerging economies across the world.
- NCF will also fully account for other initiatives like National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy Bharat Programme (NIPUN Bharat), the national mission for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
- India's NEP 2020 based education model will serve as a benchmark for emerging economies across the world.
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IOC introduced Methanol-blended Petrol

Recently, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched M15 petrol on pilot basis in Tinsukia district of Assam. M15 is a mixture of 15% methanol and 85% petrol. The pilot rollout was carried out in Tinsukia district (Assam) by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) due to ready availability of methanol, which is being manufactured by Assam Petrochemical Limited in the vicinity of Digboi Refinery.

- It helps in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 5 to 10%. Adding 15% methanol to petrol will reduce GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NO_x and SO_x, thereby improving urban air quality.
- Mixing petrol with methanol will provide relief from rising fuel prices globally. It helps in achieving fuel independence and reducing the burden of imports. Adding 15% methanol to petrol can reduce crude oil imports by at least 15%. Coal reserves and municipal solid waste can be converted into methanol.
- Methanol is produced from coal (Indian High Ash Coal), agricultural residues, natural gas, biomass, municipal solid waste (MSW) and most importantly CO₂ from thermal power plants.
- The primary difference is that methanol (CH₃OH) has only one carbon and ethanol (C₂H₅OH) have two carbon atoms in each molecule.
- Aeroponic method for production of virus-free potato seeds has been signed with Madhya Pradesh, lab will be built in Gwalior

- In the special hospitality of Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Bharat Singh Kushwaha, Madhya Pradesh has proposed aeroponic method for production of virus free potato seeds. The contract was signed with the government in Delhi. Under this, in Gwalior, MP. The first lab of The Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed this unique technology for aerial potato seed production.

India to be honored nation at the upcoming Marche du Film Festival to be held in conjunction with the Cannes Film Festival in France

India will be the nation of honor at the upcoming Marche du Film to be held in conjunction with the Cannes Film Festival in France. The festival will start from May 17. This is the first time that such an honor is being given to any country.

- The 'Country of Honour' status has ensured India's presence as the focus country at the opening night of Marche 'du Film being held at Majestic Beach during which India, its cinema, its culture and heritage will be highlighted.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur announced this in New Delhi. He said that France and India are completing 75 years of their diplomatic relations.

- The event has become even more important with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris and his meeting with President Emmanuel Macron.
- Shri Thakur said that India has also been accorded Honorary Nation status at Cannes Next, under which five new start-ups in the audio-visual industry will get an opportunity to grow. In this festival, from India, R. The world premiere of the film Rocketry produced by Madhavan will also be the center of attraction.

President attends 61st Annual Conference of Bodo Sahitya Sabha

The President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, attended the 61st Annual Convention of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS) in Tamulpur, Assam. The President said that so far 17 writers have been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for their works in the Bodo language. Out of these, 10 people have been awarded for poetry. This reflects a natural affinity for poetry among Bodo writers. The constitutional amendment to include Bodo language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution was done in the year 2003 and it was announced in January 2004. At that time Bharat Ratna revered Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji was the Prime Minister of the country. Apart from Assam, Bodo-speaking people live in large numbers in Bangladesh, Nepal, Tripura, Nagaland and West Bengal. Inspired by the Assam Sahitya Sabha, BSS was formed in 1952 for the development of literature, culture and language. The Governor of Assam with the President, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other dignitaries have attended this mega event of BSS.

Announcement for the future of the Internet

Recently, the US and 60 other countries signed a new declaration for the future of the Internet. The goals of this declaration are to keep the Internet open, free and neutral, prevent growing digital authoritarianism, ensure the removal of illegal content without reducing free expression, and reduce the environmental footprint of the Internet and digital technologies. Commitments under the declaration protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, promote a global Internet that advances the free flow of information, advance inclusive and affordable connectivity so that everyone can benefit from the digital economy, privacy. Promote trust in the global digital ecosystem, including security.

- The major countries that have signed the declaration are the US, European Union (EU), United Kingdom, Canada, France, etc. India did not sign the declaration. China and Russia are also not part of this declaration.

Narayan Rane Inaugurates "Enterprise India" A Month Long Initiative

Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane, inaugurated the "Enterprise India" under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The series of commemorative entrepreneurship, development events and activities were organised from April, 2022 to May, 2022. The event is aimed at 'Jan Bhagidari'. The activities include:

- Conferences with Industry Associations,
- Organising Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes through Field offices,
- Demonstration of Nukkad Nataks in Aspirational Districts,
- Special campaigns on Udyam Registration, and
- Launch of MSME Sustainable Zed Certification Scheme, conducting 'MSME Expedition' in several States, organising MSME Mega Convention and Exhibition.
- It also promotes MSMEs in entrepreneurship and importance of Industry associations in making the country a "Manufacturing Hub" and increasing India's economy to 5 trillion dollars.



Global Wind Energy Sector Needs Four-Fold Higher Growth to Meet 2050 Net Zero Goal: GWEC Report

According to the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) report titled "Global Wind Report 2022 (GWEC - Global Wind Report 2022)" wind energy installations worldwide must quadruple from the 94 GW installed in 2021 within this decade if the world is to stay on track for a 1.5 degree C pathway and net zero by 2050.

- The report warns to amplify wind energy in order to sustain global warming over pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degrees Celsius-a target set by the Paris Agreement-and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- In 2021, the global wind industry had its second-best year, with almost 95 GW of capacity added, only 1.8 % below the record growth of 2020.93 .6 {GW} of new installations in 2021 brings global cumulative wind power capacity to {GW}, showing year-over-year (YoY) growth of 12 %.
- Report also highlights that 557 {GW} of new capacity will be added in the next five years which is more than 110 {GW} of new installations each year until 2026.

About 99% World's Population Is Now Breathing Polluted Air: WHO



According to the latest update from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations (UN) health agency, about 99% of the world's population breathes air that does not meet WHO's air quality standards. The air is polluted and often contains particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, enter the veins and arteries, and cause ailments.

For the first time, the WHO Air Quality Database introduced ground measurements of annual mean concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), a common urban pollutant and precursor of particulate matter and ozone.

- It also includes measurements of Particulate Matter (PM) with diameters of equal or smaller than 10 μ m (PM₁₀) or 2.5 μ m (PM_{2.5}). Both groups of pollutants originate

mainly from human activities related to fossil fuel combustion.

Note:

- The last version of the database was issued in \$2018.\$

Key Points :

- The update was released ahead of World Health Day on April 7, 2022, which was celebrated with the theme "Our planet, Our health."
- The WHO updated its air quality database six months after strengthening its guidelines, which now includes data from over 6,000 cities, towns, and villages around the world.
- Air quality is the worst in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean and Southeast Asia regions, followed by Africa.
- According to the database, the developing world was worst affected, and PM10 levels were high in India, whereas PM2.5 levels were high in China.
- The Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a New Delhi-based think tank, found in a study that more than 60 % of India's PM 2.5 loads are from households and industries.

263 million people will go into poverty in 2022 : Oxfam report

According to a new report by Oxfam, more than 1.25 billion people will go into poverty in 2022. The report also said that the worldwide financial crisis will be driven by the rise in prices due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the economic crisis related to COVID-19.

Key Points :

- The Russia-Ukraine crisis with COVID-19 is further widening the gap between rich and poor around the world. Since the start of the pandemic, around 3.3 billion people worldwide are living below the poverty line, with a new person becoming a billionaire every 26 hours. The Oxfam report's estimates are based on World Bank estimates as well as earlier research conducted by the World Bank and the Center for Global Development. The report was released ahead of the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Report Highlights :

- COVID-19, rising food prices, and inequality could push 263 million more people into extreme poverty in 2022. The result would be that a total of 860 million people worldwide would live below US\$1.90 a day. It would do extraordinary harm by reversing decades of progress in the fight against poverty. Due to the pandemic, people lost their jobs and savings, while food prices increased more than in the 2011 crisis. In comparison, billionaires are earning significantly more, as they are taking advantage of the inflationary environment to increase profits. Oil companies all over the world are making huge profits.
- Uneven growth in poverty: This increase in poverty is spread unevenly across the world. In sub-Saharan African countries, 40% of consumer spending is spent on food costs while in advanced economies the figure is half that. Developing nations are seeing debt

levels not seen before. The world's poorest countries need \$43 billion to pay off debt.

- **Suggested Plans :** Financial rescue plans have been suggested. In poor countries, cash transfers and value-added taxes on staple food should be cut to protect them from inflation. Also, for countries falling in the low and lower-middle income bracket, the World Bank should cancel debt payments for the years 2022 and 2023. Also, taxation should be imposed on the rich.

India will supply wheat to Egypt

Egypt, the world's largest importer of wheat from Ukraine and Russia, has approved India as one of the wheat suppliers. India will supply around one million tonnes of wheat, of which 2,40,000 tonnes will be supplied in April. Egypt buys 11 to 12 million tonnes of wheat a year from Ukraine, Russia and other countries.

After complaints of Indian wheat infected with 'Karnal Bunt' disease in India, after a rigorous process of checking quarantine facilities and field visits by Egyptian authorities in India, this export was approved.

- Officials visited wheat fields in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab to check the quality of wheat produced in the country.
- In FY23, India aims to export 10 to 11 million tonnes of wheat as global demand picks up after the Russia-Ukraine crisis.
- **India's Wheat Exports** - In the period April to January 2021-22, India's wheat exports increased to \$1.74 billion as compared to \$340.17 million in the same period in 2020-21. The country's wheat exports stood at

\$61.84 million in 2019-20. Bangladesh is the largest importer of Indian wheat. India has also entered new markets like Afghanistan, Yemen, Indonesia and Qatar. India is looking to replace Ukrainian and Russian dominance among about 30 wheat importing countries in the world. About 10 to 15 of these 30 countries have existing customers, but India's share is very small. India's wheat export to the world is less than 1 percent. The stock has risen to 0.54 percent in 2020 from 0.14 percent in 2016.

- Top 10 countries importing wheat from India in 2020-21 - Bangladesh, Nepal, UAE, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Afghanistan, Qatar, Indonesia, Oman, Malaysia is included.
- **Wheat production in India:** India was the world's second largest wheat producer with a share of around 14.14 per cent in global wheat production in 2020. Annually, the country produces 107.59 million tonnes of wheat, most of which is used for domestic consumption (98 million tonnes). The major wheat growing states are Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- **Rise in the prices of Indian wheat in the global market:** After the crisis, the prices of Indian wheat reached \$ 360 per tonne. Indian wheat is still the cheapest in the global market and the absence of Russia and Ukraine from the global markets presents a huge opportunity for India to export record quantities of wheat.

Announcement of establishment of Indo-US Education and Skill Development Working Group in line with cooperation plans

India and the US plan to strengthen cooperation in the field of skill development and education through joint cooperation. Both countries are planning to promote student and scholarly mobility with the aim of creating people-to-people contacts.

In line with the cooperation plans, a new India-US Education and Skills Development Working Group has been announced.

This working group will help in improving relations between countries in the field of skill development and education. The contribution of the Fulbright-Nehru program in strengthening the exchange program between the two countries was also highlighted.

The role of 4 million Indian-Americans in deepening Indo-US relations was also highlighted. Cooperation in the field of higher education between the two countries will also help in boosting diplomatic relations.

WTO cuts global trade growth forecast to 3% in 2022

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has revised its global trade growth forecast from 4.7% to 3% this year due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. The WTO has also warned about a possible food crisis that could lead to price increases. In this report of the World Trade Organization, it has been said that this conflict has harmed the world economy. The economic recovery is also being affected by the

lockdown in China. The pandemic, along with the war, has disrupted global supply chains, increased inflation, and dented business growth expectations. The World Trade Organization has projected that the global trade growth will be 3% in 2022 while it will increase to 3.4% in 2023. Forecasts for 2022 and 2023 are uncertain due to the conflict.

Yemen President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi Resigns Under Saudi Pressure



Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, President of Yemen has stepped down under pressure from Saudi Arabia. At present, President Hadi is under de-facto house arrest. He announced a new 8-member presidential leadership council and transferred his powers to the council.

- He also removed Vice President Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar from his position and reassigned his responsibilities to the new council.
- The Cabinet headed by Prime Minister (PM) Khaled Bahah has also handed its resignation to President Hadi.

Russia successfully test-fires Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile



Russia announced that it had successfully test-fired the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, amid rising tensions between Russia and the West over the Ukraine issue. The missile was fired from the Arkhangelsk region of northwestern Russia. Russia's Defense Ministry said the missile met all the objectives during the test. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the new missile system has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is capable of evading all modern anti-missile measures.

Shanti Sethi will be Kamala Harris's defense advisor

Indian-American Navy veteran Shanti Sethi has been appointed as Defense Advisor to USA Vice President Kamala Harris. Shanti Sethi is the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship. Shanti Sethi commanded the guided-missile destroyer, USS Decatur, from December 2010 to May 2012. She joined the Navy in 1993. When she joined the Navy in 1993, the combat ejection law was still in effect, so was limited in what she could do. However, when she was an officer, the Exclusion Act was lifted.

Former Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki died at 90

On 22nd April, 2022, Mwai Kibaki, former President of Kenya died at the age of 90. It was announced by The President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta. He served as the third President of Kenya.

About Mwai Kibaki:

- Mwai Kibaki is a Kenyan Politician and a debater who steered the development of the country since its Independence on December 12, 1963.
- Kibaki served two terms as President of Kenya, the East African Country, ruling from 2002 to 2013.
- His re-election to a second term in 2007 was disputed by his opponent, Raila Odinga which led to a tribal violence causing loss of more than 1,100 people.
- Post in which he oversaw the adoption of a new constitution with reforms aimed at preventing such unrest that happened during the 2007 Presidential election.
- Kibaki left a legacy of strong growth in the regional economic powerhouse, launching major infrastructure projects and boosting the struggling health and education sectors.

India's Military spending is 3rd Highest in World, US tops: SIPRI Report

In accordance with the Sweden based think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, titled 'Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2021', India's military spending of \$76.6 billion is 3rd highest in the world followed by the United States (US)-1st and China (2nd).

- The report's data is based upon the updated SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, which provides military spending data by country for the years 1949-2021.
- The five largest spenders in 2021 were the US, China, India, the UK (United Kingdom) and Russia, together accounting for 62 % of expenditure.

Elon Musk acquires Twitter for approx 44 billion



Tesla co-founder and World's richest person (as of April 26, 2022) Elon Musk has acquired social networking service Twitter Inc. for approximately \$44 billion with shares valued at \$54.20. Now the company will be held privately.

- The all-cash deal for the same is expected to be completed later this year

Key Points:

- ELon Musk is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of electric car maker Tesla Inc; and aerospace company SpaceX.
- His wishlist for the acquired company include Edit button, Free speech, spam bots, and changes in algorithm.

- Under this deal, he secured 25.5 billion of debt and margin loan financing and will provide about \$ 21 billion in equity to fund the deal.

About Twitter:

- It was created by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams in March 2006, and was launched in July 2006
- The Current Twitter CEO is Parag Agrawal.

India and Maldives to establish transmission interconnection for renewable energy transfer

The Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri RK Singh called on the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology of the Republic of Maldives, Ms. Aminath Shouna. Shri Singh appreciated the resolve of the Government of Maldives to achieve 100% zero emission target by 2030.

- During this meeting, both the leaders proposed two MoUs. The first was on energy cooperation and the second MoU was signed on transmission interconnection under One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG).
- India and Maldives have proposed to establish transmission interconnections for renewable energy transfer as part of the One Sun, One World and One Grid initiative to facilitate Maldives' electricity transmission programme.
- A draft Agreement is being prepared for the Memorandum of Understanding on Transmission Interconnection, under which a

technical team from India will visit Maldives to assess its technical feasibility.

- Thereafter, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared jointly with agencies from India and Maldives, which includes undersea cable route survey and network augmentation in Male.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky Receives John F Kennedy Award



The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022 to five individuals for the first time. The award will be presented by Carolyn Kennedy and her son, Jack Schlossberg on May 22, 2022 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, USA. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky is among five people awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

- President of Ukraine: Volodymyr Zelensky
- Representative of the United States of America (USA): Liz Cheney
- Michigan Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson

- Arizona Rep: Russell "Rusty" Bowers
- Fulton County, Georgia, election worker: Wandrea "Shay" Mosso
- Zelensky was chosen because, among us, the Russian military's relentless assault on cities and towns in Ukraine, he put the spirit, patriotism and relentless sacrifice of the Ukrainian people in the fight for life-or-death for their country.

India Participates as Guest of Honor at Paris Book Festival 2022

India was nominated as the Chief Guest at the Paris Book Festival 2022 to be held from April 21 to 24, 2022 under the joint statement of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-President Emmanuel Macron issued in 2018 during the visit of the President of France to New Delhi. has been done. The Paris Book Festival was inaugurated on 21st April, 2022 and the India Pavilion of Paris Book Festival was inaugurated on the same day. The India Pavilion, designed by the National Institute of Design (NID), houses over 15 digital and physical exhibitions, showcasing over 400 books published in various Indian languages and representing 65 Indian publishers.

Russia announces to leave UNWTO membership

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has announced that Russia has decided to withdraw from the UNWTO. The announcement was made by Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Main point :

- According to UNWTO, Russia has decided to withdraw from the organization even before the body voted to suspend Russia for the war against Ukraine. This development has come to the fore in the midst of the Russo-Ukraine War.
- The UNWTO had previously described the Russian aggression against Ukraine as inconsistent with the United Nations Charter and against the fundamental purpose of the UNWTO.
- The UNWTO had earlier announced in the month of March that it wanted to suspend Russia because of the conflict. This is the first time UNWTO has met to discuss the suspension of any of its member states.
- United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- UNWTO is a United Nations organization entrusted with the promotion of sustainable, responsible and universally accessible tourism. The headquarters of this organization is located in Madrid, Spain. It is an international organization that promotes tourism to promote economic growth, environmental sustainability and inclusive growth.

GIP is expected to provide a model for using the Trilateral Development Corporation (TDC) Fund

India and the United Kingdom have launched their Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) as both the countries seek to strengthen their innovation ecosystem to benefit start-ups. The GIP is expected to provide a model for using

Trilateral Development Corporation (TDC) funds for projects with other countries like Germany, Japan, EU, France etc. to work with India in the field of development and innovation. are willing to. The GIP will be co-financed by India and the UK. TDC Fund has been recently launched by India to involve the private sector with state support for investment in the Indo-Pacific region. The region includes the Indian Ocean, the central and western Pacific Oceans, and the seas that connect both Indonesia and beyond.

Lithuania's capital Vilnius has so far only hosted the Honorary Consulate of India which was opened in 2015.

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to open a new Indian Embassy in Lithuania. On 27 April 2022, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal to open a new Indian Embassy in Lithuania. This will be India's first full-fledged embassy in the Baltic region.

- Lithuania is at the center of a diplomatic dispute with China after Taiwan allowed it to open a de facto embassy. Lithuania was the first Baltic country to open an embassy in India in the year 2008. The Indian authorities had earlier expressed their intention to open the embassy in 2005.
- The opening of the Indian Mission in Lithuania will help India expand its strategic, political and economic ties with Lithuania. The mission will help garner support for India's foreign policy objectives and provide more sustained political outreach. The Indian mission will also help in better assisting the Indian community and will also help in expanding economic, political and people-to-people ties.

- **China's relations with Lithuania:** After Taiwan opened a non-diplomatic office in Lithuania's capital, China downgraded its relations with Lithuania.
- **Lithuania:** Lithuania is a country located in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. It is located on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. Vilnius is the largest and capital city of this country. Gitanas Nausėda is the current President of the country and Ingrida Šimonytė is the Prime Minister.

Deepika Padukone becomes jury member of 75th Cannes Film Festival



Deepika Padukone will attend this year's Cannes Film Festival as a member of the jury. As the brand ambassador of the beauty brand L'Oreal, the film actress-producer has attended the prestigious film festival several times in the past. The jury for the 75th edition of the film festival is headed by French actor Vincent Lindon, who won the Best Actor award at Cannes in 2015. With her inclusion in the Cannes jury, Deepika Padukone has become a part of a select group of Indian stalwarts. The list of such stalwarts includes Sharmila Tagore, Nandita Das, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Vidya Balan among others who played the same role in the past.

EU and India to set up Business and Technology Council

The European Union and India have agreed to establish a Trade and Technology Council with the aim of addressing challenges to ensure security and reliable technology in line with rapid geopolitical changes. The decision to set up such a council is the first for India with any of its partner nations. The European Union had already established such a council with the US. The agreement for the formation of this council was reached in a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The two leaders also discussed the status of trade talks, with India and the EU resuming talks to reach a comprehensive free trade agreement as well as an investment agreement.

India ranks first in the world in real-time transactions : ACI Worldwide Report

According to the ACI Worldwide Report on Real-time Transactions, India's real-time transactions have grown to 48.6 billion in the year 2021. This is almost three times that of China which is second only to India with 18 billion transactions. India's transaction volume is more than seven times that of the US, UK, Canada, Germany and France combined which stands at 7.5 billion.

Widespread adoption of real-time payments in 2021 has resulted in cost savings worth \$12.6 billion for Indian consumers and businesses. This has helped in unlocking economic output of US\$ 16.4 billion which is 0.56% of India's GDP.

The growth of QR code payments and UPI-based mobile payment apps among merchants, as well

as increased use of digital payments during the COVID-19 pandemic, will boost real-time payments in 2021.

Consumers are moving from cash to digital real-time payment methods, which means that the share of real-time payments in total payment volume will exceed 70% in 2026.

Highlights of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Bangladesh and Bhutan

On April 28-30, 2022, the Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) visited Bangladesh and Bhutan. His delegation included Foreign Secretary-designate Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

On April 28, 2022, he paid a brief official visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh where he met Bangladesh Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina and also held talks with Bangladesh Minister Abul Kalam Abdul Momen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

On April 29, 2022, he paid an official visit to Thimphu, Bhutan to further strengthen bilateral ties. He was Bhutan's first high-level visitor from abroad since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. He was invited by Bhutan's Minister Lyonpo Tandi Dorji, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

There S. Jaishankar called on Bhutan's PM Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering,

NATO Exercises - Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022 Began in Poland and 8 Other Countries

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) exercise, Defender Europe 2022 (DE22) and Swift Response 2022 (SR22) began on

May 01, 2022 aimed at building preparedness and interoperability between Allies and partners of the United States (US) and NATO.

- The exercises are scheduled from May 01 to May 27, 2022
- Host Countries: The exercise began in Poland and will be held in 8 other countries.
- Exercise Swift Response is an annual U.S. Army Europe and Africa multinational training exercise that takes place this year in Eastern Europe, the Arctic High North, Baltics, and Balkans.

INS Gharial Delivers Critical Medical Aid to Sri Lanka Under Mission SAGAR IX

India as part of Mission SAGAR IX (Security And Growth for All in the Region) provided Critical Medical Aid through its Indian Navy Ship (INS) Gharial to Sri Lanka, which is going through a medical emergency situation with many lifesaving drugs out of stock, forcing doctors to delay major surgeries. The consignment arrived at Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 29, 2022.

Key Points:

- The consignment delivered over 760 KiloGrams (kgs) of 107 types of critical life saving medicines, which was received by the Health Minister of Sri Lanka Channa Jayasumana.
- The Critical life saving medicines will be supplied to the University of Peradeniya Hospital, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

FAO's The State of the World's Forests 2022: 10% of total forest area on Earth lost in 30 years



On 2nd May 2022, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) released its flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2022: Forest Pathways for Green Recovery and Building Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable economies". This is part of The State of the World series of the FAO.

- The report states that since 1990, around 420 million hectares(Mha) approximately 10.34 %, of forest have been lost through conversion to other land uses.
- The rate of deforestation has decreased over the last 30 years but it was still 10 Mha per year from 2015 to 2020.
- Forests cover around 31 % (4.06 billion ha) of the Earth's land surface.
- The publication was launched during the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC 2021) being held in Coex, Seoul, the Republic of Korea from 2nd to 6th May 2022.

THE Impact Rankings 2022: 8 Indian Universities among top 300; India becomes 4th best-represented nation

The Times Higher Education (THE) released THE Impact Rankings 2022 (4th edition). There were 1,524 universities from 110 countries/regions participated on work towards the United Nations(UN)'s Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) across 18 tables, overall ranking and one for each of the 17 SDGs.

- With 64 universities on the ranking, India has become the 4th most wellrepresented country (Jointly with Turkey).
- 8 Universities from India are among the top 300 universities in the world.

Note :

- THE Impact Rankings is the only global indicator to assess universities' progress towards the UN's SDGs.

PM Modi attends India-Denmark Business Forum



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the Prime Minister of Denmark and Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark participated in the "India-Denmark Business Forum".

Highlights of PM Modi's speech:

- Prime Minister Modi called for FOMO (fear of missing out) and said that those who do not invest in India will definitely be missed. Created investment opportunities in various sectors like shipping and ports.
- He emphasized the complementary skills of both the economies and invited Danish companies to take advantage of India's vast opportunities. More than 200 Danish companies in India 'Make in India', 'Jal Jeevan Mission', 'Digital India' and others Actively working in furtherance of National Missions.
- More than 60 Indian companies in Denmark, mainly in the IT sector, are further strengthening bilateral business-to-business ties.

What areas were the focus of this event?

- Green technology, innovation and digitization
- Energy independence and renewable energy water, environment and agriculture Infrastructure, transport and services.

The following agreements have been signed during the one day visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Denmark –

- Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility (DoI)
- Letter of Intent (LoI) on Center of Excellence in Green Shipping.
- Program for Cultural Exchange (CEP) between the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Danish Ministry of Culture for the years 2022-2026.

- Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Danish Ministry of Environment.
- MoU on cooperation in the field of skill development, vocational education and entrepreneurship.
- Joint declaration on cooperation in the field of animal husbandry and dairy.
- Energy policy dialogue launched at ministerial level.

India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership: 'India-Denmark: A Green Strategic Partnership' was established in September 2020. During PM Modi's visit to Denmark, the two countries agreed to further strengthen the Green Strategic Partnership with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management. It aims to propel the world towards an ambitious green energy transition and demonstrate the path to achieving it, focusing on both energy efficiency and renewable energy.

2nd India-Nordic Summit

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attends the 2nd India-Nordic Summit with Ms. Mette Fredriksen, Prime Minister of Denmark, Ms. Katrin Jacobsdottir, Prime Minister of Iceland, Mr. Jonas Gahr Store, Prime Minister of Norway, Ms. Magdalena Andersen, Prime Minister of Sweden and Ms. Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland took. The summit provided an opportunity to review the progress made in India-Nordic relations since the first India-Nordic summit held in Stockholm in 2018.

Discussions were held on multilateral cooperation in the areas of post-pandemic

economic recovery, climate change, sustainable development, innovation, digitization and green and clean development. Cooperation in the maritime sector was also discussed with a special focus on sustainable ocean management.

- The Prime Minister invited Nordic companies to invest particularly in the area of the Blue Economy economy, including India's Sagarmala project.
- India's partnership with the Nordic region in the Arctic region was discussed.
- The Prime Minister said that India's Arctic Policy provides a good framework for expanding India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic region.
- Prime Minister invited Sovereign Wealth Funds of Nordic countries to invest in India.

French naval group rejects bid for P-75 India project



Recently France's Naval Group rejected the bid for the P-75 India project, saying it does not yet use Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology. About 10 countries have developed or are close to developing AIP technology and about 20 countries have AIP submarines.

In June 1999, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved a 30-year submarine building plan that included building 24 conventional submarines by 2030.

- In the first phase, two series of production were to be established - the first, the P-75; Second, the P-75i. Each series was to produce six submarines. While the six P-75 submarines are diesel-electric, they can be equipped with AIP technology later.
- The project envisages indigenous construction of six conventional submarines equipped with state-of-the-art air-independent propulsion systems at an estimated cost of Rs 43,000 crore. AIP is the technology for conventional non-nuclear submarines. There are essentially two types of submarines: conventional and nuclear. Conventional submarines use diesel-electric engines, which require them to come to the surface daily to obtain atmospheric oxygen for fuel combustion.
- If the submarine is equipped with AIP system, they will need to take oxygen only once a week. The indigenously developed AIP is one of the major missions of the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL-DRDO), which is considered as one of the ambitious projects of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization) for the Navy.

CEPA between India & UAE came into Force on May 1, 2022

The India-United Arab Emirates(UAE) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the biggest bilateral trade pact between India and UAE came into force

on May 1, 2022. The India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18th February 2022

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs(CBIC) and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) have issued the notifications for the operationalisation of the agreement from May 1,2022.

- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will likely benefit about 26 billion worth of Indian exports that were subjected to 5% duty by the UAE.
- This is the first of the major bilateral trade pacts that India has been negotiating to kickstart international trade in the post-COVID-19 scenario.
- This is expected to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to more than 100 billion USD and trade in services to over 15 billion USD within 5 years. India will benefit from the preferential market access provided

by the UAE on over 97 per cent of its tariff lines (or products) which account for 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UAE in value terms.

Joint Declaration of Intent on Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force signed

The Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh and Germany's Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Change Dr. Robert Habeck signed a joint declaration of intent on the Indo-German Hydrogen Task Force. India has emerged as one of the world leaders in energy transit with the fastest rate of development of renewable energy capabilities in the world. He told his German counterpart that in India we have a transparent bidding system, an open market, an accelerated dispute resolution system and we are globally acknowledged as one of the most attractive destinations for investment in RE.



West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard announces retirement from international cricket



West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has announced his retirement from international cricket. Pollard was the captain of the West Indies ODI team. He has played 123 ODIs and 101 Twenty20 cricket matches. He was included in the team that won the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup in the year 2012. Kieron Pollard has been associated with Mumbai Indians for the last several years in the Indian Premier League.

India Secures A Total Of 17 Medals In Asian Wrestling Championships 2022

The 30-member Indian contingent participated at the 35th Edition of Asian Wrestling Championships 2022 held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 19 April 2022 to 24

April 2022. In which Indian wrestlers secured a total of 17 medals, that includes (1-Gold, 5-Silver, 11-Bronze medals).

Gold Medalist :

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya is the only Gold medalist representing India, in the men's 57 kg freestyle category, beating Kazakhstan's Rakhat Kalzhan on technical superiority.
- Ravi Kumar became the first Indian to win 3 Gold medals in Asian Wrestling Championships which includes 2020 in New Delhi, India, 2021 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and 2022 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia respectively.

Khelo India Youth Game-2021

Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be held this time from June 4-13, 2022. In these, 8500 players from across the country will participate. Five Indian sports are also included in the 25 sports in the under-18 category. Apart from Panchkula, sports events will be held in Shahbad, Ambala, Chandigarh and Delhi. The mascot and logo of this competition will be launched on May 8 at Indradhanush Auditorium, Panchkula.

Taking forward the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in sports, complete arrangements for cleanliness

will be made. During this, cultural programs immersed in Haryanvi culture will be organized. During the Amrit Mahotsav of freedom, the stories of innumerable fighters of the freedom struggle and the introduction of excellent players of the state will be given through the exhibition. The objective of Khelo India scheme is to promote sports throughout the country and thus the holistic development of children and youth, through community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities associated with the development of sports. The game is to harness the abilities.

2022 Badminton Asia Championships - India's PV Sindhu won Bronze in Women's Singles



On May 01, 2022, the Indian Badminton Player Pusarla Venkata(PV) Sindhu won the Bronze medal in Women's Singles at the 39th edition of 2022 Badminton Asia Championships held from April 26 to May 1, 2022 at the Muntinlupa Sports Complex in Manila, Philippines.

- The Philippines Badminton Association hosted the competition, which is sanctioned by Badminton Asia.
- The total prize money for this year's tournament is USD 400,000.
- This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament; she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.

Finals Result :

- **Men's Singles** : The Malaysian badminton player Lee Zii Jia won gold medal by defeating the Indonesian badminton player Jonatan Christie.
- **Women's Singles** : The Chinese badminton player Wang Zhiyi won gold medal by defeating the Japanese badminton player Akane Yamaguchi.
- **Men's doubles** : The Indonesian badminton players Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yeremia Erich Yoche Yacob Rambitan won gold medal by defeating the Malaysian duo Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik
- **Women's Doubles** : The Chinese badminton duo Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan won the gold medal by defeating the Japanese duo Iwanaga Rin and Nakanishi Kie.
- **Mixed Doubles** : The Chinese badminton players Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong won the gold medal by defeating the compatriots Huang Dong Ping and Wang Yi Lyu.

Ronnie O'Sullivan Won Record 7th World Snooker Championship Title; Became the Oldest Snooker Champion

Ronnie O'Sullivan (England), has won the 2022 World Snooker Championship (officially 2022 Betfred World Snooker Championship) by defeating Judd Trump (England) against 18-13 in the finals, which were held from April 16 to May 2, 2022 at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England.

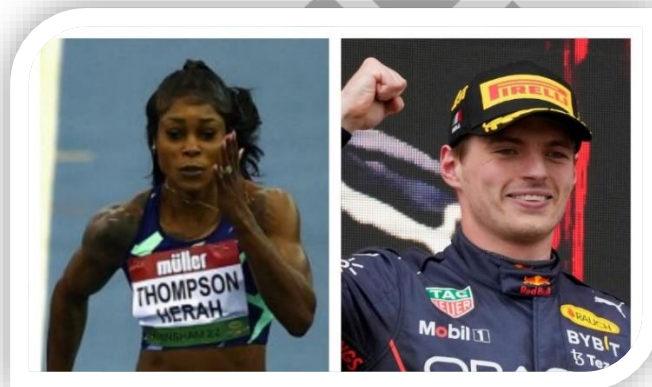
- The tournament was organised by the World Snooker Tour and sponsored by sports betting company Betfred.
- The Total prize money is 2,395,000 Euros and the Winner gets a share of 500,000 Euros.
- O'Sullivan (Aged 46) becomes the oldest world champion in Crucible history, eclipsing Ray Reardon, who won his sixth title aged 45 in 1978.

The first Indian weightlifter to win a gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships: Harshada Sharad Garud

Harshada Sharad Garud has become the first Indian weightlifter to win a gold medal at the IWF Junior World held in Heraklion, Greece. Before Harshada, there are only two Indian players to win a medal in this championship. Mirabai Chanu won the bronze medal in 2013, while Achinta Sheuli won the silver medal last year. Harshada lifted 153 kg in the women's 45 kg weight category, which included 70 kg in snatch and 83 kg in clean and jerk. Turkey's Bektas Kansu won the silver medal, while Moldova's Teodora Luminita Hinku won the bronze. Another Indian competing in the same category, Anjali Patel,

finished fifth, lifting a total of 148 kg (67 kg and 81 kg). In the continental and world championships, separate medals are awarded in the snatch, clean and jerk and total weight, while in the Olympics, medals are awarded only in the total weight category.

23rd Laureus World Sports Awards 2022 : Max Verstappen & Elaine Thompson-Herah wins Top Honours



The winners of the 23rd Annual Laureus World Sports Awards - 2022 (Laureus22) were announced over a digital ceremony broadcasted from Seville, Spain.

The 2021 Formula One(F1) World Champion Max Verstappen, a Belgian-Dutch racing driver and the Jamaican Olympic sprinter Elaine Thompson-Herah have won the World Sportsman of the year 2022 and Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year 2022 respectively.

- This marks Max Verstappen's first Laureus award and his 2nd nomination.

Host :

- The 2022 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony was hosted by Olympian Lindsey Vonn, the greatest women's skier of all time.



Ajay Kumar Sood is the new Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government.



Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore physicist Ajay Kumar Sood has been appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) as the new Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the government for a period of three years from the date of his assumption of office or until further orders. will be effective for the period. The eminent biologist K. Vijay will replace Raghavan.

On April 2, K. The post of PSA was lying vacant after Vijay Raghavan's retirement. In the year 2018 K. Vijay Raghavan was appointed as the principal scientific advisor. He was instrumental in leading the management of the pandemic

along with the Vaccine and Drug Development Task Force.

His term ended in the year 2021 but his term was extended. Seventy-year-old Ajay Kumar Sood is currently a Professor at IISc Bangalore. He is also a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council. The Government had established the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser in November, 1999. The objective of the PSA's office is to provide practical and objective advice to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet on matters relating to science

Robert Golob elected as the Prime Minister of Slovenia

In the prime ministerial election of Slovenia, Robert Golob defeated the three-time prime minister, Janez Jansa. State election officials have confirmed that the Freedom Movement won about 34% of the vote, compared to about 24% for the governing conservative Slovenian Democratic Party. In the election, 7% of the votes went to the New Slovenia Party, a little over 6% to the Social Democrats and only 4% to the Left.

Baggavalli Somashekar Raju appointed new Deputy Chief of Army Staff



Director General of Military Operations of the Army Lt Gen Baggavalli Somashekar Raju has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Army Staff. Lt Gen Baggavalli Somashekar Raju will take over as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on May 1. This is a rare instance where a three star officer will take over as the Vice Chief before completing his tenure as Army Commander.

Somashekar Raju, an alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and National Defense Academy, was commissioned into the Jat Regiment on 15 December. He commanded his battalion during Operation Parakram in Jammu and Kashmir. He also has the distinction of commanding the Uri Brigade along the Line of Control, a counter insurgency force, and the Chinar Corps in the Kashmir Valley.

Lieutenant General Raju is also a qualified helicopter pilot. They have flown in Somalia as a UNOSOM-2 operation. Apart from this, he is also a Colonel of the Jat Regiment. Lt Gen Raju has attended all important career courses in India

and has also done NDC at Royal College of Defense Studies, United Kingdom.

For his outstanding contribution to service, he has been awarded the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Yudh Seva Medal.

Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as the Chairman of Payments Council of India

Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as the Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI) for the second time in 2022, previously he was elected as a Chairman of PCI in the year 2018. In 2013, he served as CoChairman of PCI. PCI is a payment ecosystem industry body and is a part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). PCI aims to promote a cashless transaction society and vision to grow digital payment in India.

Dr S Raju has taken over as the Director-General of the Geological Survey of India

Dr S Raju has taken over as the Director-General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) with effect from April 01, 2022. He succeeds R. S. Garkhal who superannuated on March 31, 2022. Prior to this, Dr Raju was holding the post of Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ. • Vice-Chancellor of Indraprastha University, Mahesh Verma has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI)

India's Aprajita Sharrma selected for the prestigious ITU position

An Indian official has been selected as vice-chairperson of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management, giving India a leadership position. Ms Aprajita Sharma, an IP&TAF Service officer, has been appointed vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management at the International Telecommunication Union's Council sessions in Geneva from March 21 to March 31, 2022.

RBI approves re-appointment of Murli Natarajan as MD-CEO of DCB Bank



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved an extension in the tenure of Murli M Natarajan as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of DCB Bank for a period of two years. His extended term will be applicable from April 29, 2022, to April 28, 2024. Natarajan is serving as MD & CEO of the bank since April 2009.

Eminent scholar-academician Manoj Soni as new UPSC chairman



Currently a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Dr Manoj Soni has been appointed the chairman of the country's premier government recruiting agency. He has been associated with the Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission, at Mogri in Anand district, since a young age and received diksha (initiation) as a nishkarma karmayogi (selfless worker) on Jan 10, 2020.

Harsh Vardhan Shringla named India's G20 chief coordinator

Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will take over next month as G20 chief coordinator, the government officially announced. The appointment is significant as India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders Summit for the first time in India in 2023.

Ex-IPS officer Lalpura reappointed National Commission for Minorities chief

The central government has re-appointed retired Punjab-cadre IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura as the chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities. Lalpura, who was first appointed as chairman in September last year, had to resign from the post in December to contest as the BJP candidate from the Ropar assembly constituency, which he lost.

Lt Gen Manoj Pande named as India's next Chief of Army Staff



Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff. Lt Gen Pande is the incumbent Vice-Chief of the Army. He will take over from General MM Naravane, who is set to retire on April 30, 2022. Lt Gen Manoj Pande is the first-ever officer from the Corps of Engineers to be appointed as Army Chief.

He has served as chief engineer in the UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. He was the Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) from June 2020 to May 2021. Outgoing army chief Gen MM Naravane is seen

as the frontrunner for the Chief of Defence Staff's (CDS) post, that has been vacant since the death of India's first CDS Gen Bipin Rawat in an air crash last December.

Vikram Dev Dutt Named as Air India Asset Holding CMD

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, approved Vikram Dev Dutt's appointment as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India Asset Holding (AIAHL), with effect from 27th January 2022, in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

Prior to this, Dutt was in-charge of Air India as a CMD till the airline was handed over to the Tata Group. Air India Asset Holding (AIAHL) was set up in 2019 by the government for holding debt and non-core assets of the Air India group. The government had on October 8, 2021, announced that the Tata Group won the bid to acquire Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.

India Pulses and Grains Association named Bimal Kothari as Chairman

India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry, has appointed Bimal Kothari as the new Chairman with immediate effect. Kothari takes over from Jitu Bheda, who was the IPGA chairman since 2018. Kothari, one of the key founding members of the association, has been the Vice-Chairman of IPGA since 2011 when it was formed. Bimal Kothari takes over as the third chairman of the association after Pravin Dongre and Jitu Bheda.

Lt Gen. Manoj Kumar Katiyar named as next DG of Military Operations

Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar has been appointed as the next Director-General of Military Operations. He would take charge of the new office on May 1st. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Lieutenant General Katiyar was commissioned in the 23rd Battalion of the Rajput Regiment in June 1986.

Delhi's new Chief Secretary has been appointed, Naresh Kumar

According to a home ministry notification released, senior IAS officer Naresh Kumar has been appointed as the chief secretary of Delhi. Kumar, an IAS officer from the 1987 batch of the AGMUT cadre, has been shifted from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi. Before being transferred, he was the chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh.

Babita Singh selected as new Global Peace Ambassador 2022



Babita Singh, a serial entrepreneur, was named a Global Peace Ambassador for her work in promoting peace through education, sports, art,

culture, and diplomacy at the India International Conclave 2022, which was held in collaboration with the Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) in New Delhi.

As Co-Chair, Ashwin Yardi, CEO of Capgemini India, joins the UNICEF YuWaah Board

YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) in India announced today that Ashwin Yardi, CEO of Capgemini in India, has joined the organisation, starting immediately, alongside Yasumasa Kimura, UNICEF Representative, as being the co-chair of the organisation.

Haj Committee of India elects AP Abdullahkutty as chairperson

AP Abdullahkutty has been elected as the chairperson of the Haj Committee of India, while for the first time, two women have been chosen as its vice-chairpersons—Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun. Ministry of Minority Affairs is the nodal ministry to conduct the Haj pilgrimage in India. Haj pilgrimage for the Indian pilgrims is conducted either through Haj Committee of India (HCol), or the Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) approved by the Ministry.

TCS' Krishnan Ramanujam appointed as Nasscom Chairperson for 2022-23

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) announced that Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Enterprise Growth Group at Tata Consultancy Services, has been appointed as its Chairperson for 2022-23. Ramanujam succeeds Rekha M.

Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India, in this role.

Nasscom also announced the appointment of Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India, as its Vice-Chairperson for 2022-23. Maheshwari will succeed Ramanujam in this role.

InterGlobe Aviation appointed Venkata - ramani Sumantran as Chairman of the Board of Directors

InterGlobe Aviation announced that Venkataramani Sumantran has been named the chairman of the IndiGo Board. Sumantran has worked in America, Europe and Asia during his career spanning more than 37 years. He is a corporate leader, technocrat and educationist. Sumantran is the Managing Director and Chairman of the strategic advisory firm Celeris Technologies. Melvetil Damodaran had resigned from his post on Tuesday after turning 75. Sumantran will take over Melvetil Damodaran.

IBM President Arvind Krishna elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The bank announced that 60-year-old Krishna has been elected as a 'Class B Director'. Krishna will hold the post till December 31, 2023, .

the statement said. Arvind Krishna, who studied at IIT Kanpur, will join the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He has been selected as Class B director by the bank. He is currently the Chairman and CEO (Chairman and Chief Executive) of IBM. Prior to his tenure as IBM's CEO, Krishna, 60, was senior vice president of Cloud and Cognitive Software. He also headed IBM Research. He was general manager of the development and manufacturing organization for IBM Systems and Technology Group.

Vinay Mohan Kwatra assumes charge as India's new Foreign Secretary



Vinay Mohan Kwatra took charge as India's new Foreign Secretary. A 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Mr Kwatra succeeded Harsh Vardhan Shringla who retired from service. Mr Kwatra was serving as India's envoy to Nepal before assuming the charge of the Foreign Secretary.



List of Important Days National & International



April 15 : Himachal Day

Himachal Day is organized every year on 15th April. It is to be noted that Himachal Pradesh came into existence on 15th April, 1948 as the Chief Commissioner's province.

With the coming into force of the Indian Constitution, Himachal Pradesh became a 'C' category state on 26 January 1950. On July 1, 1954, Bilaspur joined Himachal Pradesh. After this, Himachal Pradesh was declared as a Union Territory on July 1, 1956.

In the year 1966, Kangra and other hilly areas of Punjab were merged into Himachal Pradesh, but its form remained as a union territory.

Himachal Pradesh State Act was passed by the Parliament in December 1970, as a result of which the new state came into existence on 25 January 1971. Thus Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of the Republic of India. The earliest known tribal inhabitants of the area were called Dasas, later Aryans also came to live here. The state is surrounded by Jammu and Kashmir in the north, Punjab in the southwest, Haryana in the south, Uttarakhand in the southeast and Tibet (China) in the east.

According to the 2011 census, the population of the state is about 68 lakhs and the total area of the state is about 55,673 square kilometers.

International Day of Human Space Flight 2022 - April 12

The United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Human Space Flight is annually observed across the globe on 12 th April to mark the beginning of the space era for mankind.

- The day also marks the anniversary of the first human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen who made the first human space flight when he orbited the Earth in a Vostok 1 spacecraft.
- In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the world's first manmade satellite "Sputnik I" into orbit.
- The day also highlights the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving the sustainable development goals.

International Day of Street Children 2022 - April 12

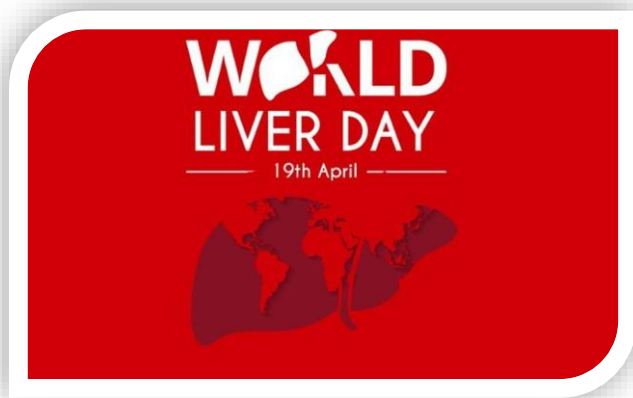
International Day of Street Children(IDSC) is annually observed across the globe on 12th April to acknowledge the strength and resilience of millions of street children across the world.

The day also recognise the humanity, dignity and defiance of street children in the face of unimaginable hardships.

The IDSC 2022 theme is the 4th Step in Consortium for Street Children (CSC)'s 4 Steps to Equality campaign.

- The theme of 2022 IDSC calls for them to enjoy proper recognition and support.

World Liver Day 2022 - 19th April



World Liver Day is annually observed across the globe on 19th April to create awareness about various liver-related diseases and conditions and the importance of the liver which plays a vital role in the human digestive system.

The day also aims to motivate people to adopt a healthy lifestyle. i. According to the World Health Organisation(WHO) report (2018), Liver diseases are the 10th most common cause of death among Indians.

The most common causes of liver-related deaths in India are Alcohol, Hepatotropic viruses and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).

Background :

The Consortium for Street Children (CSC), an international children's charity fighting for the rights of street children worldwide, launched the

first International Day for Street Children on 12th April 2011 .International Day for Street Children (IDSC) has been celebrated globally since 2012

World Book and Copyright Day 2022 - April 23

World Book and Copyright Day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd April to celebrate and promote the enjoyment of books and reading. The day also recognises the scope of books as a connection between the past and the future and a bridge between generations and cultures.

- The observance of the World Book and Copyright Day is annually organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Background:

- During the 28th session of the UNESCO's General Conference held in Paris, France, from 25th October to 16th November 1995, UNESCO adopted a resolution proclaiming the 23rd April of every year as the World Book and Copyright Day.
- The first-ever World Book and Copyright Day was observed on 23rd April 1996 . \$ Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay has named the Guadalajara city in Mexico as the World Book Capital of 2022, on the recommendation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.

About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- (UNESCO):
- Director-General-Audrey Azoulay
- Headquarters- Paris, France

UN English Language Day 2022 - April 23

United Nations(UN)'s English Language Day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd April to spread awareness and promote the history, culture and achievements associated with the English language. The day also promotes books, poetry and literature in the English Language.

- The English Language Day, 23rd April also marks the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare, an English playwright, poet and actor, colloquially as "The Bard" or "The Bard of Avon".

UN Spanish Language Day 2022 - April 23

The United Nations(UN)'s Spanish Language day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd April to celebrate and create awareness about the history culture and use of Spanish.

The day also promotes the use of Spanish, one of the 6 official languages of the UN, among the staff members of the UN.

- The Spanish Language Day (23rd April) also marks the death anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes, one of the most important and celebrated figures in Spanish literature.

International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace 2022 April 24

The United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is annually observed across the globe on 24th April to create awareness about preserving the values of multilateralism and international cooperation, which supports the UN Charter and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

- Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace are fundamental to promoting and supporting the three pillars of the UN - Peace and Security, Development and Human Rights.
- The first-ever International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace was observed on 24th April 2019.

World Day for Laboratory Animals 2022 - April 24

World Day for Laboratory Animals(WDLA) is annually observed across the globe on 24th April to highlight the movement to end the suffering of animals in laboratories around the world and their replacement with advanced scientific nonanimal techniques.

- The day is also known as World Day for Animals In Laboratories (WDAIL) or World Lab Animal Day.

Background:

- The World Day for Laboratory Animals was instituted in 1979 by the Animal Defenders International (ADI)'s campaign partner in the United Kingdom(UK), the National AntiVivisection Society (NAVS), to commemorate the suffering of millions of animals in laboratories all over the world.

International Delegate's Day 2022- April 25

The United Nations(UN)'s International Delegate's Day is annually observed across the globe on 25th April to create awareness about the role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to the UN. 25th April 2022 marks the observance of the 3rd International Delegate's Day.

Background:

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/73/286 on 2nd April 2019 and proclaimed the 25 April of every year starting from 2020 as International Delegate's Day.

World Malaria Day 2022 April 25

World Malaria Day is annually observed across the globe on 25th April to highlight the need for investment and commitment toward the prevention and control of Malaria. The day also aims to educate and offer a better understanding of Malaria, a preventable and curable disease.

- The observance of the day is annually organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- The theme of World Malaria Day 2022 is "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives".
- The first-ever International Delegate's Day was observed on 25th April 2020.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2022

The United Nations(UN)'s International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is annually observed across the globe on 26th April to commemorate the anniversary of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster.

- 26th April 2022 marks the 36th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster that took place on 26th April 1986.
- The day also creates awareness of the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy.

World Asthma Day 2022

World Asthma Day (WAD) is annually observed across the world on the first Tuesday of May to create awareness about asthma, a condition in which the airways narrow and swell and may produce extra mucus.

- World Asthma Day is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative organization founded in 1993.
- World Asthma Day (WAD) 2022 falls on 3rd May 2022.
- WAD 2021 was observed on 4th May 2021.
- WAD 2023 will be observed on 2nd May 2023.
- The theme of World Asthma Day (WAD) 2022 is 'Closing Gaps in Asthma Care'.

World Press Freedom Day 2022

The United Nations(UN)'s World Press Freedom Day is annually observed across the globe on 3rd May to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and to assess the state of press freedom throughout the world.

The day also defends the media from attacks on their independence and pays tribute to the journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

- The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2022 is "Journalism under digital siege".

International Day of Argania 2022

The United Nations(UN)'s International Day of Argania is annually observed on 10th May to create awareness about the importance of Argan Tree (*Argania spinosa*), the native species of Morocco, in achieving the 3 dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) at the local level. 10th May 2022 Marks the observance of the 2nd International Day of Argania.

- The theme of International Day of Argania 2022 is "The argan tree, Symbol of Resilience".

May 11: National Technology Day

National Technology Day is celebrated every year on 11 May to remind India's technological progress.

On 11 May, India test-fired its first successful Shakti-I nuclear missile. The missile was test-fired by the Indian Army at Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan. This operation was called "Operation Shakti". After the test of the Shakti-I nuclear missile, India also successfully test-fired two nuclear weapons.

On May 11, DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization) completed the test of Trishul missile. It also marks the flight of the first indigenous aircraft named Hansa-3.

The code name of the first phase of Operation Shakti was "Smiling Buddha". It was held in May 1974. The second nuclear test, the second phase of Operation Shakti, also known as Pokhran II, conducted in 1998, was a series of 5 tests of atomic bombs. It was led by the late President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. After this successful test, PM Vajpayee declared India as a full nuclear state. After these nuclear tests many sanctions were imposed against India. The major countries that imposed sanctions on India were the US and Japan.

May 12 : International Nurses Day

International Nurses Day is celebrated every year on 12 May. The birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale is celebrated as International Nurses Day. The day is celebrated to mark the contribution made by nurses to the society.

International Nurses Day: International Nurses Day has been celebrated by the International Council of Nurses since 1965. Every year on International Nurses Day, the International Council of Nurses distributes educational and public information materials to be used by nurses everywhere.

Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer and founder of modern nursing. She trained and managed nurses during the Crimean War. She took care of wounded soldiers in Constantinople. At the same time, in Victorian culture she grew in prestige for nurses. She was known as "The Lady with the Lamp". She was the first to lay the foundation for professional nursing. He established the Nursing School at St Thomas' Hospital in London. It was the first nursing school in the world. It is now a part of King's College, London.

The Florence Nightingale Medal is the highest honor given to a nurse. It is provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**Current Affairs Quiz - 1****NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

1. Inland Waterways Authority of India has recently organized "Jalmarg Conclave 2022" in which state?
(a) Punjab (b) Gujarat
(c) Maharashtra (d) Assam
2. Indian Air Force and who has recently signed an agreement for technology development and maintenance of various weapon systems?
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Kanpur
(c) IIT Kharagpur (d) IIT Madras
3. Which of the following state government has launched "Him Prahari" scheme for ex-servicemen and youth?
(a) Government of Maharashtra (b) Government of Kerala
(c) Government of Punjab (d) Government of Uttarakhand
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the Prime Minister's Museum in the iconic Teen Murti complex in which city?
(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata
(c) Chennai (d) New Delhi
5. Which of the following bank has announced to sell its entire 4% ownership in Bharat SME Asset Reconstruction Company?
(a) Kashmir Bank (b) Yes Bank
(c) Bank of Maharashtra (d) Gujarat Bank

6. According to the World Bank report, extreme poverty in India is declined by _____ in 2019 as compared to 2011.
(a) 9.1% (b) 10.2%
(c) 11.5% (d) 12.3%
7. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation has risen to ____ in March 2022.
(a) 10.21% (b) 11.49%
(c) 12.74% (d) 14.55%
8. Indian Army's Trishakti Corps has organized an Integrated Fire Power exercise EX KRIPAN SHAKTI at Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR) in _____.
(a) Gujarat (b) Karnataka
(c) Odisha (d) West Bengal
9. Who is the author of the new book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution: A play for Children on Human Rights"?
(a) Navdeep Singh Gill (b) Mithilesh Tiwari
(c) Rajesh Talwar (d) Rajiv Bhatia
10. Prafulla Kar passed away recently. He was a/an _____.
(a) Musician (b) Poet
(c) Kathak dancer (d) Actor
11. The first Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centre was inaugurated on _____.
(a) April 2018 (b) February 2019
(c) March 2019 (d) February 2020
12. World Bank has cut the global growth forecast for 2022 to _____% due to the impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
(a) 1.5% (b) 2.7%
(c) 3.2% (d) 4.4%
13. SBI has raised 3-year funds of _____ through a syndicated loan facility at "very fine pricing" through its IFSC Gift City branch.
(a) \$ 100 million (b) \$ 150 million
(c) \$ 250 million (d) \$ 500 million

14. Which company has launched world's 1st crypto-backed payment card with Mastercard & DiPocket?
(a) Torque (b) Aave
(c) Nuo (d) Nexo
15. Which bank has won global 'Celent Model Bank' Award under the category of 'Payments System Transformation' for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH)?
(a) Bank of Baroda (b) State Bank of India
(c) IndusInd Bank (d) HDFC Bank
16. Where is the India's first portable solar rooftop system inaugurated?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
17. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India in FY23 to _____.
(a) 10.2 per cent (b) 9.2 per cent
(c) 8.2 per cent (d) 7.2 per cent
18. 'Finclusion' is a financial inclusion initiative launched by which bank?
(a) Paytm Payment Bank (b) NSDL Payments Bank
(c) Jio Payment Bank (d) India Post Payments Bank
19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various projects worth Rs _____ at a function held in Dahod, Gujarat.
(a) Rs 13,200 crore (b) Rs 22,000 crore
(c) Rs 37,500 crore (d) Rs 48,000 crore
20. In which of the following state, Ability Electric Inc. will set up the world's largest electric three-wheeler manufacturing facility?
(a) Karnataka (b) Odisha
(c) Telangana (d) Tamil Nadu
21. Who has been reappointed as the Prime Minister of Cte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)?
(a) Patrick Achi (b) Alassen Outara
(c) Gilbert Hongbo (d) Emma Terhoe

22. Where is the 3-day "Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization" conference being organized?
(a) Pune (b) Surat
(c) Ahmedabad (d) Mumbai
23. Which state cabinet has approved the 'Gene Bank', a first-of-its-kind project in India for biodiversity conservation?
(a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
24. Which bank has launched India's first comprehensive 'open-for-all' digital ecosystem for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country?
(a) DBS Bank (b) CSB Bank
(c) HDFC Bank (d) ICICI Bank
25. Which state's 'Miyan Ka Bada' railway station has been renamed as "Mahesh Nagar Halt"?
(a) Assam (b) Uttarakhand
(c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar

Current Affairs Quiz - 2

SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

1. Retired IPS officer of Punjab cadre Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been appointed as the chairman of which commission recently?
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Planning Commission
(c) Education Commission (d) National Commission for Minorities
2. Who among the following year old R Pragyanand has won the prestigious Reykjavik Open Chess tournament?
(a) 16 years old (b) 18 years old
(c) 22 years old (d) 25 years
3. Which of these countries will host the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023?
a) China b) Japan
c) Australia d) India

4. Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath has won which medal in men's singles in the badminton tournament Orleans Masters 2022?
 (a) Gold Medal (b) Silver Medal
 (c) Bronze Medal (d) none of these
5. Recently in which state the first Khelo India National Ranking Women's Archery tournament has been organized in Jamshedpur?
 (a) Gujarat (b) Kerala
 (c) Jharkhand (d) Punjab
6. Who has been appointed as ambassador for Karnataka's Brain Health Initiative?
 (a) Pankaj Tripathi (b) Jasprit Bumrah
 (c) Manoj Bajpayee (d) Robin Uthappa
7. World Liver Day is observed on _____ annually to spread awareness about causes of liver disease .
 (a) 18 April (b) 19 April
 (c) 20 April (d) 21 April
8. Which of the following team has emerged as the champions of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship?
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Karnataka
 (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Haryana
9. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff?
 (a) Nav Kumar Khanduri (b) Rana Pratap Kalita
 (c) Manoj Pande (d) Ajai Singh
10. Which of the following apex body has appointed Bimal Kothari as its new Chairman?
 (a) All India Council of Technical Education
 (b) Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture
 (c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
 (d) India Pulses and Grains Association

11. Name the Indian Grandmaster who has clinched the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament title in Castile-La Mancha, Spain.
(a) R Praggnanandhaa (b) Dommaraju Gukesh
(c) Harshit Raja (d) Sankalp Gupta
12. The UN Chinese Language Day is observed on ____ annually. The day has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie.
(a) April 16 (b) April 17
(c) April 18 (d) April 20
13. Who among the following has been appointed Wipro India country head?
(a) Sanjeev Dhaam (b) Sumit Singhal
(c) Vijay Tripathi (d) Satya Easwaran
14. A mobile app 'Khelo India Uni Games 2021' has been launched for the 2nd edition of Khelo India University Games. The 2nd edition of Khelo India University Games is being organized in _____.
(A) Jaipur, Rajasthan (B) Mumbai, Maharashtra
(c) Chennai, Tamil Nadu (D) Bengaluru, Karnataka
15. World Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day, is observed every year on _____.
(a) 21st April (b) April 22
(c) April 23 (d) April 24
16. What is the theme of Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day 2022?
(a) Invest in our planet (b) Restore our earth
(c) Climate Action (d) Protect our species
17. Recently, the prominent physicist _____ was appointed as the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.
(a) Raja Ramanna (b) Ranjit Kumar
(c) Homi Sethna (d) Ajay Kumar Sood
18. Kieron Pollard recently announced his retirement from international cricket. He is the all-rounder of which of the following country?
(a) West Indies (b) England
(c) Australia (d) South Africa Answer

19. Who among the following has won bronze at Asian Badminton Championships in Manila?
 (a) Saina Nehwal (b) PV Sindhu
 (c) Sania Mirza (d) N. Sikki Reddy
20. International Labour Day is observed every year on _____.
 (a) 1 May (b) 2 May
 (c) 3 May (d) 4 May
21. Which of the following state observed its statehood day on 1st May?
 (a) Manipur (b) Mizoram
 (c) Telangana (d) Maharashtra
22. Senior IFS officer _____ recently assumed charge as India's new Foreign Secretary.
 (a) Vinay Mohan Kwatra (b) Rajiv Kumar
 (c) Suman Bery (d) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
23. World Laughter Day was first celebrated in _____ in Mumbai and was initiated by the founder of the Laughter Yoga Movement Dr Madan Kataria.
 (a) 2008 (b) 1998
 (c) 2018 (d) 2021
24. World Tuna Day is observed globally on _____ every year.
 (a) 1st May (b) 2nd May
 (c) 3rd May (d) 4th May
25. World Asthma Day is observed every year on the _____.
 (a) First Monday of May (b) First Tuesday of May
 (c) First Wednesday of May (d) First Thursday of May



ANSWERS



Current Affairs Quiz - 1

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- 1.(d) Assam
Exp Recently Inland Waterways Authority of India has organized "Jalmarg Conclave 2022" in Dibrugarh, Assam. The aim of which was to focus on harnessing the potential of the international and domestic waterways ecosystem in the North-Eastern region of the country.
- 2.(d) IIT Madras
Exp IIT Madras - Indian Air Force and Indian Institute of Technology - Madras have recently entered into an agreement to find indigenous technology for technology development and maintenance of various weapon systems.
- 3.(d) Government of Uttarkhand
Exp The Government of Uttarakhand has recently started "Him Prahari" scheme for ex-servicemen and youth. Under this scheme, priority will be given to settle ex-servicemen in the areas bordering the state. The purpose of this scheme is to stop the migration of people from Uttarakhand.
- 4.(d) New Delhi
Exp Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the Prime Minister's Museum in the iconic Teen Murti complex in New Delhi. This museum will become a source of inspiration for the youth who will be able to understand how all the Prime Ministers faced difficulties and how they overcame those difficulties to lay the foundation of a new India.
- 5.(c) Bank of Maharashtra
Exp Bank of Maharashtra has recently announced to sell its entire 4% ownership in Bharat SME Asset Reconstruction Company for around Rs 4 crore. The bank's 4% stake, which translates into 40,00,000 equity shares, will be sold for Rs 3.92 crore in cash at Rs 9.80 per share.

- 6.(d)** 12.3%
Exp According to the World Bank report, poverty in India is 12.3% lower in 2019 as compared to 2011. The poverty headcount rate has declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019.
- 7.(d)** 14.55%
Exp The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation in India in the month of March rose to 14.55% due to an increase in power prices and rising edible oil prices.
- 8.(d)** West Bengal
Exp Indian Army's Trishakti Corps has organized an Integrated Fire Power exercise EX KRIPAN SHAKTI at Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR) near Siliguri in West Bengal.
- 9.(c)** Rajesh Talwar
Exp A new book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution: A play for Children on Human Rights" authored by Rajesh Talwar.
- 10.(a)** Musician
Exp Legendary Odia singer and music director Prafulla Kar has passed away due to age-related ailments.
- 11.(a)** April 2018
Exp The inauguration of the first AB-HWC was on 14th April 2018, at Jangla, a serene village in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh.
- 12.(c)** 3.2%
Exp The World Bank has cut the global growth forecast for 2022 to 3.2% from 4.1% due to the impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 13.(d)** \$ 500 million
Exp State Bank of India (SBI) has raised 3-year funds of \$500 million (over Rs 3,800 crore) through a syndicated loan facility at "very fine pricing" through its IFSC Gift City branch.
- 14.(d)** Nexo
Exp Nexo has joined hands with global payments company Mastercard to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card. Electronic money firm DiPocket is Nexo's card issuer.

- 15.(c)** IndusInd Bank
Exp IndusInd Bank has been awarded the global 'Celent Model Bank' award under the category of 'Payments System Transformation' for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH).
- 16.(a)** Rajasthan
Exp The first portable solar rooftop system in India has been inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- 17.(c)** 8.2 per cent
Exp International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India in FY23 to 8.2 per cent.
- 18.(d)** India Post Payments Bank
Exp India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched an initiative called FinCluvation as the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence.
- 19.(b)** Rs 22,000 crore
Exp Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various projects worth Rs 22,000 crore at a function held in Dahod, Gujarat.
- 20.(c)** Telangana
Exp Ability Electric Inc. (Liability), based in California, United States, has announced its intention to set up the world's largest electric three-wheeler manufacturing facility in Telangana.
- 21.(a)** Patrick Achi
Exp Patrick Achi has been reappointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast by President Alassane Ouattara.
- 22.(b)** Surat
Exp Grand inauguration of 3-day "Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization" conference was held in Surat. The event is being organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India along with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Limited.
- 23.(d)** Maharashtra
Exp Maharashtra Cabinet approved first-of-its-kind 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' for biodiversity conservation.

24.(d) ICICI Bank

Exp ICICI Bank has launched India's first comprehensive digital ecosystem for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country, which can also be used by the customers of other banks.

25.(c) Rajasthan

Exp Miyan Ka Bada' railway station in the Balotra area of Rajasthan's Barmer district was renamed "Mahesh Nagar Halt."

Current Affairs Quiz - 2

SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

1.(d) National Commission for Minorities

Exp National Commission for Minorities - The Central Government has recently appointed Iqbal Singh Lalpura, a retired IPS officer of Punjab cadre, as the chairman of the National Commission for Minorities. He was first appointed as the chairman in September last year.

2.(a) 16 years old

Exp 16-year-old - 16-year-old R Pragyanand has won the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament by defeating compatriot GM D Gukesh in the final round. Indian youngster R Pragyanand scored 7 1/2/9 and was half a point ahead. R Pragyanand also registered four other victories, including a win over American Abhimanyu Mishra.

3.(d) India

Exp Bharat - Organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India will be organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India. Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will involve 22 teams from 16 countries.

4.(b) Silver Medal

Exp Silver Medal - Tournament Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath has won silver medal in men's singles in the badminton tournament Orleans Masters 2022 in Orléans, France. Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath, ranked 79, lost 11-21, 19-21 to world number 32 Frenchman Toma Junior Popov.

- 5.(c)** Jharkhand
Exp Jharkhand - The first Khelo India National Ranking Women's Archery Tournament has been organized at Tata Archery Academy in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. Recently, Sai has approved Rs 75 lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Archery tournament in 6 phases.
- 6.(d)** Robin Uthappa
Exp The Karnataka government has appointed Indian Cricket Player Robin Uthappa as the ambassador for Brain Health Initiative which was started by the Karnataka Health Department.
- 7.(b)** 19 April
Exp The World Liver Day is observed on 19 April annually to spread awareness about causes of liver disease and tips for its prevention so as to take holistic care of liver.
- 8.(d)** Haryana
Exp Haryana has emerged as the champions of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship by defeating Tamil Nadu.
- 9.(c)** Manoj Pande
Exp Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff. Lt Gen Pande is the incumbent Vice-Chief of the Army.
- 10.** (d) India Pulses and Grains Association
Exp India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry, has appointed Bimal Kothari as the new Chairman with immediate effect.
- 11. (b)** Dommaraju Gukesh
Exp Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh has clinched the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament title in Castile-La Mancha, Spain.
- 12.(d)** April 20
Exp The UN Chinese Language Day is observed on April 20 annually. The day has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.

13.(d) Satya Easwaran

Exp IT major Wipro has announced the appointment of Satya Easwaran as the Country Head for India.

14.(d) Bengaluru, Karnataka

Exp In a first of its kind initiative, a mobile app 'Khelo India Uni Games 2021' was launched for the 2nd edition of Khelo India University Games, organized by Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports in association with Jain Deemed University Bangalore, Karnataka.

15.(b) April 22

Exp World Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day, is observed every year on 22 April.

16.(a) Invest in our planet

Exp The theme of Earth Day 2022 is 'Investing in our Planet'. In 2021, the theme was 'Restore our Earth'.

17.(d) Ajay Kumar Sood

Exp Recently, prominent physicist Ajay Kumar Sood was appointed as the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

18.(a) West Indies

Exp West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has announced his retirement from international cricket.

19.(b) PV Sindhu

Exp In Asia Badminton Championships, India's P.V. Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal after a heartbreaking three-game loss to top-seed and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila.

20.(a) 1 May

Exp International Labour Day is observed globally on 1st May every year. It is also known as International Worker's Day and May Day.

21.(d) Maharashtra

Exp PM Modi greets people of Gujarat, Maharashtra on their statehood day . Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people of Gujarat and Maharashtra on the foundation day of the two western states and lauded their accomplishments in diverse fields. Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed after the enactment of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960.

22.(a) Vinay Mohan Kwatra

Exp AIR Senior IFS officer Vinay Mohan Kwatra today assumed charge as India's new Foreign Secretary. He succeeded incumbent Harsh Vardhan Shringla. A 1988 batch IFS officer, Mr. Kwatra was earlier serving as India's Ambassador to Nepal.

23.(b) `1998

Exp World Laughter Day was first celebrated in 1998 in Mumbai and was initiated by the founder of the Laughter Yoga Movement Dr Madan Kataria.

24.(b) 2nd May

Exp World Tuna Day is observed globally on 2nd May every year. This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish.

25.(b) First Tuesday of May

Exp World Asthma Day is observed every year on the first Tuesday of May to spread awareness and care about asthma in the world.
