

CURRENT AFFAIRS



**APRIL
2022**



HAPPY ACADEMY



PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of April 2022.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Events

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with the Daily Study of News Papers as well as your other sources.



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SECTION 1



Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

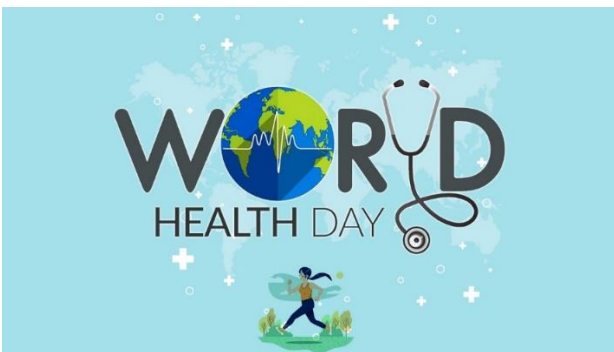


1: Important Days



National Maritime Day : 05 April :-

National Maritime Day is observed on April 5th each year. This year marks the 59th anniversary of National Maritime Day in India. The first celebration was held in 1964 to raise awareness about intercontinental trade and the economy. Every year, the day is observed to support the global economy, the most well-organized, safe, and environmentally responsible method of transporting goods from one end of the world to the other. On National Maritime Day, an award ceremony is held to recognise people's contributions to the Indian maritime sector. They are given the Varuna Award, which consists of a statue of Lord Varuna and a scroll, in recognition of their long and exceptional contributions. This year's theme of the National Maritime Day is "Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19".



World Health Day : 07 April :-

The world celebrates World Health Day every year on April 7. To commemorate this day, people all over the world take part in activities and attend seminars on health-related topics. It is the day that usually marks the start of a new campaign aimed at promoting a healthy world. In 1948, the World Health Organization (WHO) convened the first World Health Assembly, which called for a "World Health Day." The first World Health Day was observed on April 7, 1950, and it has been observed every year on the same date since then. The theme for this year's World Health Day is "Our Planet, Our Health".



World Homeopathy Day : 10 April :-

The 10th of April is World Homeopathy Day. The day is observed to recognise the significance of homeopathy and its contribution to the field of medicine. Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician and the founder of homeopathy, was born on this date. Hahnemann was born in Paris in 1755. The main goal of commemorating the day is to raise awareness of the benefits of homeopathic treatment and medicines. Aside from that, the day will be used to discuss challenges and plan future strategies for the advancement and development of homeopathy. This year, the theme for World Homeopathy Day 2022 in India is 'People's Choice For Wellness'.



National Safe Motherhood Day : 11 April:-

Every year on April 11, National Safe Motherhood Day is observed. The Government of India declared April 11, Kasturba Gandhi's birth anniversary, as National Safe Motherhood Day in 2003. The declaration is the work of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI), a coalition of 1800 organisations. This day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of having adequate access to care during pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal services. India is responsible for 15% of all maternal deaths worldwide. Every year, 44,000 women die in India as a result of poor prenatal care.



Jallianwala Bagh Massacre : 13 April :-

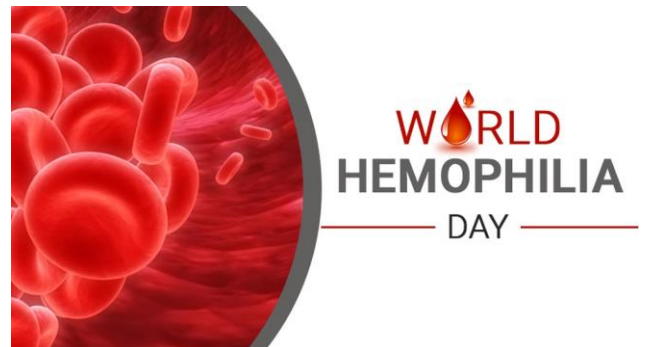
The Jallianwala Bagh massacre completed 103 years, in which several hundreds of people were killed on this day in 1919 as a result of indiscriminate firing by the colonial forces. The Britishers had banned gatherings at the time and to punish civilians for their 'disobedience', Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered the army to fire into a crowd of thousands of unarmed Indians who had come

together to celebrate the festival of Baisakhi, unaware of the order. The colonial troops entered Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab, and blocked the main entrance behind them, preventing anyone from fleeing before opening fire on the crowd for about 10 minutes. As the soldiers fired bullets at them, many jumped into a well in a desperate attempt to save themselves.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti : 14 April :-

Dr. Ambedkar, also known as Babasaheb, was a professional economist. From August 29, 1947, to January 24, 1950, he served as India's first Minister of Law and Justice, and he was the primary architect of the Constitution of India, the world's largest and most complex constitution. As a result, he is known as the "Father of the Indian Constitution." He established India's Finance Commission. The Reserve Bank of India operates under Ambedkar's guidelines and ideas. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was born on April 14, 1891 and passed away in 1956. He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna Award, India's highest civilian honour, 34 years after his death.



World Haemophilia Day : 17 April :-

The 17th of April is designated as World Haemophilia Day. The day is observed to raise awareness and create a better future for people living with haemophilia. Hemophilia is a "rare disorder" in which the blood does not clot normally due to a lack of blood-clotting proteins. World Haemophilia Day is now celebrated worldwide in order to improve diagnosis and access to special care. The goal of World Hemophilia Day is to bring people with bleeding disorders from all over the world together. To commemorate the birthday of Frank Schnabel, who founded the World Federation of Hemophilia, April 17th was designated as World Haemophilia Day. This year, the theme for World Hemophilia Day is "Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy".



World Heritage Day : 18 April :-

Every year on April 18, World Heritage Day, also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites, is observed. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) dedicates the day to the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage through various activities. Heritage sites are organising a variety of programmes and tours to commemorate World Heritage Day. People can also participate in heritage-related seminars or group discussions. The day is observed to raise awareness about the cultural heritage that can be found all around us. It is also aimed at promoting

historical monuments and sites, which can help to preserve a community's cultural integrity. The World Heritage Day theme for 2022 is 'Heritage and Climate'.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Announced To Celebrate April 14 As 'Equality Day' :-

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced that Dr. BR Ambedkar, the father of the Indian constitution, will be honoured by designating April 14 as the "Day of Equality." In a statement made under Rule 110 in the assembly, CM Stalin stated that Ambedkar's birthday will be celebrated as 'Samathuva Naal' (Equality Day). The CM also announced that the Tamil Nadu government will translate selected works of Ambedkar into Tamil. Ambedkar Jayanti, also known as Bhim Jayanti, is observed annually on April 14 to honour Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution.



National Civil Service Day : 21 April :-

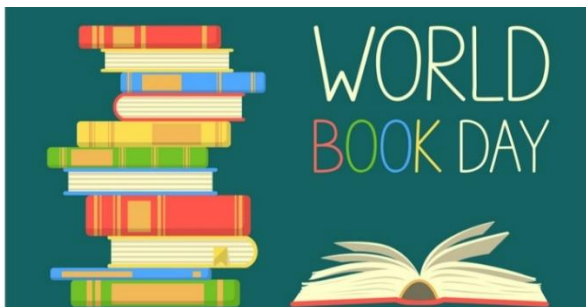
The central government observes April 21 as "Civil Services Day" every year, an opportunity for civil servants

to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in the workplace. The civil service is the Republic of India's permanent executive branch. Civil servants are administrators who ensure the implementation of government policies, as well as the smooth operation of programmes and the distribution of benefits to beneficiaries.



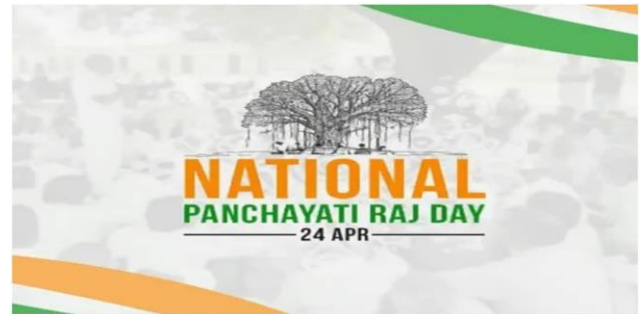
World Earth Day : 22 April :-

The United Nations declared April 22nd to be "International Mother Earth Day" in 2009. In 1970, Earth Day was first observed when 20 million people marched through the streets to protest environmental degradation. The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, as well as other issues such as smog and polluted rivers, triggered the event. Earth Day continued to play an important role in environmental activism for the next half-century. On Earth Day 2016, nearly 200 countries signed the historic Paris Agreement, which sets a common target for reducing global greenhouse emissions. The theme for Earth Day 2022 is "Invest In our Planet".



World Book Day : 23 April :-

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization organises World Book Day, also known as World Book and Copyright Day or International Day of the Book, as an annual event to promote reading, publishing, and copyright. This year marks the 26th anniversary of World Book Day. In the General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris in 1995, it was decided to commemorate and dedicate a day to reading and books in order to rediscover the pleasure of reading and gain a renewed respect for those who have made irreplaceable contributions to humanity's social and cultural progress.



National Panchayati Raj Day : 24 April :-

Every year on April 24th, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj observes National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD). The annual celebration commemorates the passage of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1992. On April 24, 1993, the act went into effect. On April 24, 2010, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day. National Panchayati Raj Day commemorates the establishment of decentralised power. A committee was formed in 1957 to focus on the evolution of Panchayati Raj in the country. The chairman of the committee was Balwantrai Mehta. The committee in its report recommended a decentralised three-layered Panchayati Raj system – Gram Panchayat at the Village level, Panchayat Samiti at the Block level and Zila Parishad at the District level.



World Malaria Day : 25 April :-

Every year on April 25, World Malaria Day (WMD) is observed. The goal of the day was to take immediate action to combat the deadly disease. Malaria is a potentially fatal disease spread by infected mosquito bites. Female Anopheles mosquitoes spread the Plasmodium parasite, which causes malaria, through their saliva. It is, however, a preventable and treatable infectious disease. Many countries around the world are already working to achieve this goal. Between 2000 and 2014, the number of malaria-related deaths worldwide fell by 40%, indicating that the world has made historic progress against malaria, saving millions of lives.

2: Agreements



SIDBI Partnered With Meghalaya To Grow The MSME Ecosystem :-

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) and the Meghalaya infrastructure development and finance corporation, a government body, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop the state's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) ecosystem. Under the terms of the MoU, the governments of Sidbi and Meghalaya will collaborate closely to help the state's MSME ecosystem grow. The partnership's goal is to promote entrepreneurship in the state and showcase replicable livelihood projects that are aligned with the state's priorities.



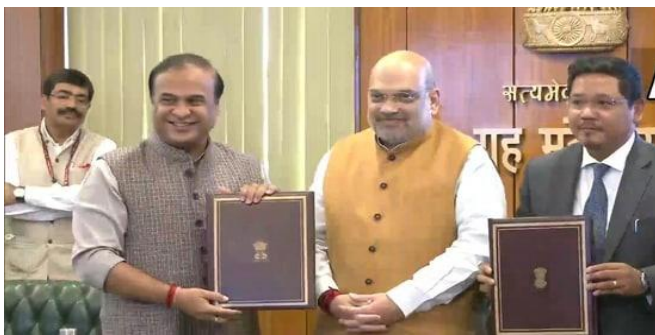
PVR & INOX Leisure Announced Merger :-

At their respective meetings, the boards of directors of PVR Limited (PVR) and INOX Leisure Limited (INOX) approved an all-stock merger of INOX and PVR. The merger is subject to shareholder approval, stock exchange approval, market regulator Sebi approval, and any other regulatory approvals that may be required. The merger will become effective once all of the necessary approvals have been obtained, and INOX will merge with PVR. PVR INOX Limited will be the combined entity's name, with existing screens continuing to be branded as PVR and INOX, respectively. PVR INOX will be the name of the new cinemas that open as a result of the merger.



Max Life Insurance Partners PhonePe To Offer Financial Security To Consumers:-

Max Life Insurance announced a collaboration with PhonePe to launch its 'Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan,' a comprehensive life insurance, on the payments app. With this collaboration, PhonePe customers over the age of 18 can apply for the 'Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan' directly through the PhonePe app. Customers will also be able to choose a sum assured of up to Rs 10 crore and have their policies renewed through the PhonePe app. With this, millions of PhonePe customers can now protect their families from life's uncertainties and obtain comprehensive financial coverage for as little as Rs 4,426 per year, according to a statement from the insurance company.



Assam And Meghalaya Have Signed An Agreement To Resolve A Border Issue In Six Disputed Districts :-

In a bid to resolve their 50-year-old boundary dispute the governments of Assam and Meghalaya have signed an agreement in the national capital . The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit

Shah by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma. Calling it a "historic day" for the northeast, Shah stated that the signing of the border pact will resolve disputes in nearly 70% of the areas.



Google Pay, Pine Labs Tieup To Offer 'Tap To Pay' For UPI Users :-

To launch 'Tap to Pay' feature for UPI which will allow users to make payments seamlessly via UPI without using their cards Google Pay has partnered with Pine Labs. Until now, this feature was only available for cards. The Tap to Pay feature will expedite payments. To complete a payment, a user simply taps his or her phone on the POS (point of sale) terminal and then authenticates the payment from the phone using the UPI pin. According to Google, this will make the entire payment process much easier than scanning a QR code or entering the UPI-linked mobile number to make a payment.



Manipur Govt Tie-Up With Samsung To Start Sports Digital Experience Centre :-

The Manipur state government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with tech giants Samsung Data System India and Abhitech IT Solutions to establish a world-class 'Sports Digital Experience Centre' as part of Manipur Olympian Park and at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, giving a boost to Digital India. On the occasion, CM Biren Singh stated that the government was putting a lot of emphasis on building the Manipur Olympian Park so that younger generations and players could be inspired by the Olympians' activities and achievements.



India and Australia signed Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) :-

India and Australia have signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) that will provide duty-free access to 96% of Indian exports to Australia, including shipments from key sectors such as engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles, apparel, and leather. According to government estimates, the pact is expected to boost bilateral trade in goods and services to \$45-50 billion over five years, up from around \$27 billion, and generate over one million jobs in India.



SBI Tie-Up With BSF To Offer Curated Benefits Through CAPSP Scheme :-

To provide special benefits to serving and retired BSF personnel, as well as family pensioners the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), announced a partnership with the Border Security Force. The state-owned bank will offer special complimentary personal and air accidental insurance (death) coverage, additional coverage in the event of on-duty death, and permanent total disability or partial disability coverage, among other benefits. Through the Central Armed Police Salary Package (CAPSP), the memorandum of understanding (MoU) will also support child education and marriage of girl children of deceased BSF personnel.



Amazon Signed Contract With Three Firms To Launch Its Satellite Internet :-

Amazon announced the largest rocket deal in the commercial space industry's history, signing a pact with three rocket companies for up to 83 launches under its Project Kuiper internet satellites, putting Elon Musk to the test in the affordable satellite-based internet market. The tech behemoth agreed to launch contracts with United Launch Alliance (ULA), Arianespace, and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin. The financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Over a five-year period, the contracts total up to 83 launches, allowing Amazon to deploy the majority of its 3,236-satellite constellation.



UIDAI Tieup With ISRO For Technical Collaboration :-

:-

Aadhaar-issuing body UIDAI and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO have signed a technical collaboration agreement. The NRSC would create a 'Bhuvan-Aadhar' portal that would provide information and locations of Aadhaar centres across India. The portal also allows residents to search for relevant Aadhaar centres by location, based on their needs. The MoU was signed in the presence of UIDAI CEO by Shailendra Singh, Deputy Director General of UIDAI, and Prakash Chauhan, Director of NRSC. Other senior officers from UIDAI and NRSC were also present.



Microsoft And BPCL Collaborated To Step Up Digital Transformation :-

With the goal of speeding up the company's digital transformation and driving innovation in the oil and gas industry Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Microsoft have formed a strategic cloud partnership . According to a joint statement, the collaboration aims to capitalise on the opportunities provided by Microsoft's cloud to address the unique challenges of the oil and gas industry, allowing BPCL to accelerate the modernization

of its technology architecture. As a result, the customer experience will be improved and redefined. With Microsoft Teams and the workplace productivity suite, both companies have been working closely to provide a secure collaboration experience for BPCL's employee ecosystem across the country.



IAF Ties Up With IIT Madras To Develop Solutions To Maintain Weapon Systems :-

For the development of technology and the discovery of indigenous solutions for the maintenance of various weapon systems the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The collaboration between the IAF and IIT Madras aims to accelerate the IAF's indigenisation efforts in order to achieve 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.' IIT Madras, in collaboration with the IAF, will make a significant contribution to the indigenisation efforts of the IAF's Maintenance Command's Base Repair Depots (BRDs), with the goal of improving sustenance capability, obsolescence management, and achieving 'Self Reliance.'



IFSCA Signs A Memorandum Of Understanding With The NIA :-

To build capacity and create a skilled talent pool the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) announced a partnership with the National Insurance Academy (NIA). This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to develop the skilled manpower required by the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). IFSCA has already signed an MoU with the Insurance Institute of India (III) to address the needs of IFSC insurance entities, according to a statement from the regulator. IFSCA is a unified authority in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India for the development and regulation of financial products, services, and institutions.



NITI Aayog And UNICEF India Collaborated To Develop India's First Report On State Of India's Children :-

The NITI Aayog and UNICEF India will collaborate to create and release the first report on the 'State of India's Children: Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development.' Across states, the report will develop frameworks for understanding health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, household living standards, and a safe environment for children. "This child-focused SDG initiative builds on our effort of monitoring progress through the SDG India Index & Dashboard which continues to be a unique data-driven initiative for triggering policy action. This new initiative

with UNICEF is built on the ethos of SDG attainments for children and ensuring that no child is left behind." said Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog, in his address.



Posoco Ties Up With IIT Delhi For Research :-

To promote research on issues relating to India's power sector and to strengthen academia-industry interaction with the goal of knowledge sharing the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has partnered with Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)-NRLDC. The institute and the organisation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU was signed on the IIT Delhi campus by Rajiv Kumar Porwal, Head of NRLDC (POSOCO), and Colonel Naveen Gopal (Retd), Chief Operating Officer, FITT. Professors from IIT Delhi and officers from POSOCO's NRLDC attended the event. Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) is a wholly owned Government of India enterprise that is part of the Union Ministry of Power.



Prasar Bharati Signed MoU With Public Broadcaster Of Argentina :-

Prasar Bharati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a landmark tie-up with Argentina's Public Broadcaster Radio y Television Argentina (RTA) for collaboration in the field of broadcasting. The Memorandum of Understanding covers a number of areas in Media and Broadcasting that

are expected to demonstrate both countries' communication and transmission networking. Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati, and Rosario Lufrano, President of RTA, signed the agreement in the presence of Indian Ambassador to Argentina Dinesh Bhatia. India and Argentina are strategic partners with cordial relations and development partnerships in the fields of politics, economics, science, and technology.

3: Appointments



Gilbert Houngbo Named Next Director-General Of International Labour Organization:-

Togo's Gilbert Houngbo will be the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), according to the organisation. During a meeting in Geneva, the UN agency's Governing Body, which includes representatives from governments, workers, and employers, elected him. Former Togo Prime Minister Houngbo will lead the agency for the 11th time, and will be the first African to do so. On October 1, 2022, he will begin a five-year term. Guy Ryder, the current Director-General, has been in the position since 2012. The elections also included four other candidates from the Republic of Korea, South Africa, France, and Australia.



Shashi Sinha Named As New Chairman Of BARC :-

Shashi Sinha has been elected as the new chairman of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India. Punit Goenka, who has served as chairman of the TV viewership measurement agency for the past three years, will step down. At the joint industry body's board meeting, Sinha, the CEO of IPG Mediabrands India, was unanimously elected. Sinha was a key figure in the formation of BARC as a representative and board member of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI).



Himanta Biswa Sarma Re-Elected As President Of Badminton Association Of India :-

During the Badminton Association of India's (BAI) General Body Meeting in Guwahati, Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected unopposed as president for a second four-year term (2022-2026). In 2017, Sarma, who is also the current Chief Minister of Assam, was elected for the first time as the head of the BAI. He is also a vice president of Badminton Asia and a member of the Executive Council of the Badminton World Federation. "Badminton has been in the ascendancy in India for the last two decades and we are committed to continue that rise by providing better facilities to players and a robust governance system," Sarma said after being re-elected as BAI chief.



FedEx Appoints Indian-Born Raj Subramaniam As New CEO :-

Raj Subramaniam, an Indian American, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

delivery giant FedEx, succeeding Frederick W Smith, chairman and CEO, who is set to step down on June 1. Smith, who founded FedEx in 1971, will now serve as executive chairman of the company. Subramaniam spoke about his future goals in a statement issued by FedEx, saying that he is looking forward to focusing on Board governance as well as global issues such as sustainability, innovation, and public policy.



IFS Officer Renu Singh Appointed Forest Research Institute (FRI) Director :-

The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF) has appointed Dr Renu Singh as the next director of the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun. She will be only the second woman to lead the institute. Singh was the additional managing director of the Madhya Pradesh Forest Development Corporation in Bhopal before joining FRI as director. She has extensive field experience implementing joint forest management practises involving rural communities and addressing their livelihood-related needs.



Vishwas Patel Re-Elected As Chairman Of Payments Council Of India :-

The Payments Council of India (PCI), a payments ecosystem industry body that is part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), has announced that Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as PCI's chairman for another term. Praveena Rai, COO of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and MN Srinivasu, Co-founder and Director of BillDesk, have been named co-chairs of the organization's seven committees. Patel is the executive director of Infibeam Avenues, which operates the CCAvenue e-billing payment gateway. Since its inception, Infibeam Avenues has been profitable, and it was India's first Fintech to be listed on Indian stock exchanges.

number of research publications in national and international journals to his name.



Mahesh Verma Named As Chairperson Of NABH :-

Mahesh Verma, vice-chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, has been named the new chairman of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). NABH, a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India, manages healthcare accreditation, certification, and empanelment programmes. Dr. Verma has received the Padma Shri and the Dr. B. C. Roy awards. He was also the recipient of the National Science and Technology Award.



Dr. S Raju Takes Charge As DG Of Geological Survey Of India :-

Dr. S. Raju, Additional Director General and National Mission Head-III and IV, GSI, has taken over as Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ministry of Mines, the country's most prestigious geoscientific organisation. He is from Pasuvanathanai village, near Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, and has a bachelor's degree in geology from V.O.C. College, Thoothukudi, as well as a master's degree in geology from Presidency College, Chennai. He received a doctorate in geology from the University of Lucknow for his outstanding contribution to the field of petrography and geochemistry of Bundelkhand Craton dykes. He has a



India's Aprajita Sharma Selected For The Prestigious ITU Position :-

India has secured a leadership position in Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as an Indian official has been appointed as vice chairperson for the same. The International

Telecommunication Union announced the appointment of Ms Aprajita Sharma, an IP&TAF Service officer, as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management at its Council meetings in Geneva from March 21st to March 31st, 2022. She will serve as vice chairperson of the Council Standing Committee in 2023 and 2024, and as chairperson in 2025 and 2026.



Vikas Kumar Named As Managing Director Of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation :-

For a five-year term the Centre has approved the appointment of Vikas Kumar as the new managing director (MD) of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) . He is succeeding Dr. Mangu Singh, who has leave office on March 31, 2022. Kumar, an officer from the Indian Railway Traffic Service's 1988 batch, is currently the DMRC's director of operations and will take over as MD on April 1. Kumar will be DMRC's third managing director, following Dr Singh, who took over on December 31, 2011, succeeding E Sreedharan, the rail utility's first managing director.



Vinay Mohan Kwatra appointed as India's new Foreign Secretary :-

According to a government order, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, India's ambassador to Nepal, has been named the country's new foreign secretary. Prior to his diplomatic assignment in Nepal in 2020, he was India's Ambassador to France from August 2017 to February 2020. He has over 32 years of foreign service experience and has served in a variety of capacities. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the current foreign secretary, took over on January 29, 2020. During his 32 years of service, Kwatra, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has held positions in India's diplomatic missions in Washington DC and Beijing, as well as serving as joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.



RBI Approves Re-Appointment Of Murli Natarajan As MD-CEO Of DCB Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Murali M Natarajan's re-appointment as the bank's Managing Director and CEO for another two years, from April 29, 2022 to April 28, 2024, according to the DCB Bank. Natarajan was named the bank's MD and CEO in May 2009. He previously worked for foreign banks such as Citibank and Standard Chartered. He worked for Citibank for 14 years in various departments such as credit, finance, operations, and product management. He began working for Citibank in 1989.



Eminent Scholar-Academician Manoj Soni Appointed As New UPSC Chairman :-

Dr. Manoj Soni, who is currently a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), has been appointed chairman of the country's premier government recruiting agency. Soni, a political science scholar, taught international relations at Sardar Patel University (SPU), Vallabh Vidyanagar from 1991 to 2016, with the exception of his time as vice-chancellor of two universities, MSU, Vadodara, between 2005 and 2008, and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU), Ahmedabad, between August 2009 and July 2015.



Harsh Vardhan Shringla Named India's G20 Chief Coordinator :-

As the country takes over the G20 presidency later this year after the Summit in Indonesia and prepares to host the 2023 event amid an emerging geopolitical order, Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla, who will retire at the end of April, is expected to be appointed as India's chief

G20 coordinator. Shringla's appointment as G20 chief coordinator is expected to be announced soon, and he is expected to start in May after completing his superannuation. The position of G20 chief coordinator is equivalent to that of a secretary-level position.



BCCI Secretary Jay Shah Appointed As Member Board Representative Of ICC Cricket Committee :-

Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, has been appointed as a Member Board Representative to the ICC Cricket Committee, while Mahela Jayawardene has been reappointed as a Past Player Representative. The important decisions were made at the ICC Board Meeting in Dubai. Among other things, the ICC Board confirmed that South Africa will host the inaugural ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup in January of next year. The tournament will feature 16 teams and 41 matches. The qualification route for the eight-team ICC Women's Cricket World Cup has also been confirmed.



Ex-IPS Officer Lalpura Reappointed National Commission For Minorities Chief :-

Iqbal Singh Lalpura, a retired Punjab-cadre IPS officer, has been reappointed as chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities by the central government. Lalpura, who was first appointed chairman in September of last year, had to resign in December to run as the BJP's candidate in the Ropar assembly constituency, which he lost. Lalpura received 10,067 votes and finished fourth. Lalpura, a Sikh intellectual who has written books on Sikh and Punjabi culture, was appointed BJP spokesperson last September. Before joining the BJP in 2012, he was the Punjab Police's deputy inspector general (DIG).



Vikram Dev Dutt Named As Air India Asset Holding CMD :-

On April 14, the Cabinet Appointments Committee approved senior IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt's appointment as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India Asset Holding (AIAHL), effective January 27, 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.



Lt Gen Manoj Pande Named As India's Next Chief Of Army Staff :-

Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been named Chief of Army Staff. On May 1, he will take over for General M M Naravane. Lt General Pande, the Vice Chief of Army Staff, will be the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become COAS. Since February 1 of this year, he has served as Vice Chief of Army Staff. He was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers (Bombay Sappers) in December 1982 as an alumnus of the National Defence Academy. According to the Army, he was a part of Operation Parakram, the India-Pakistan standoff in the aftermath of the Parliament attack in 2001-02.



India Pulses And Grains Association Named Bimal Kothari As Chairman :-

Bimal Kothari has been appointed as the new Chairman of the India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry. Kothari, a key founding member of the association, has served as Vice-Chairman of IPGA since the trade body's inception in 2011. Kothari succeeds Pravin Dongre and Jitu Bheda as the association's third chairman. "We are confident that Bimal Kothari will further the association's vision of being an apex body and a global think tank of the pulses industry and trade," said Jitu Bheda, outgoing chairman of IPGA.



Wipro named Satya Easwaran as country head of India :-

Satya Easwaran has been appointed as the Country Head for India, Wipro announced. Satya will be in charge of growing strength of Wipro's business in India across key industry sectors by providing strategic consulting, transformation, and modernization services. He will assist clients in leveraging Wipro's Cloud, Digital, Engineering R&D, Data/Analytics, and Cybersecurity capabilities and investments to achieve success in their business and digital transformation initiatives. Easwaran has extensive global work experience leading end-to-end business transformation programmes for leading enterprises across multiple industries.



Shanti Sethi Appointed As Kamala Harris's Defence Advisor:-

According to media reports, Shanti Sethi, a trailblazing Indian-American Navy veteran, has joined US Vice President Kamala Harris's office as her executive secretary and defence advisor. From December 2010 to May 2012, Sethi commanded the guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur. In addition, she was the first female commander of a US naval vessel to visit India. Sethi was born in the Nevada city of Reno. Her mother was born in Canada and became a naturalised US citizen when she was 12, and her father immigrated to the US from India in the early 1960s, according to the report.



Jasleen Kohli Named As MD & CEO Of Digit Insurance :-

Digit Insurance, a private general insurer, has announced the appointment of Jasleen Kohli as the company's new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer

(CEO), effective April 20, 2022. Kohli will succeed Vijay Kumar, who has held the position since the company's inception in 2017, and will retire from the company on April 19, 2022. Previously, as Digit's Chief Distribution Officer, Kohli was in charge of all sales and distribution channels (CDO). She has been with the company since its inception and was also the company's first employee. Kohli has worked in the life and general insurance industries for nearly 19 years.



LV Vaidyanathan Appointed CEO Of P&G India :-

P&G India named LV Vaidyanathan, who oversees the company's operations in Indonesia, as its new CEO on April 19. He succeeds Madhusudan Gopalan, who will take on a new role at the parent company, according to the FMCG giant. Vaidyanathan holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) degree from the National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, as well as an MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad. He began his career with P&G in India in 1996 as a sales representative and progressed through various leadership positions. He has over 26 years of experience in a variety of geographies and cultures, including India and ASEAN countries.



Lt Gen. Manoj Kumar Katiyar Named As Next DG Of Military Operations :-

Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar is the new Director General of Military Operations. On May 1st, he would take over the new office. Previously, he was the General Officer Commanding of 1 Corps, a strike formation designed to conduct operations against both Pakistan and China. He has also held the position of Director General Staff Duties at Army Headquarters. Katiyar attended the National Defence Academy. In 1986, he was commissioned into the Rajput Regiment's 23rd battalion. Later in his career, he commanded a regiment along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.



Naresh Kumar Has Been Appointed As Delhi's New Chief Secretary :-

According to the home ministry, senior IAS officer Naresh Kumar has been appointed as the chief secretary of Delhi. Kumar, an AGMUT cadre IAS officer from the 1987 batch, has been transferred from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi. Prior to the transfer, he was the chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh. In his previous tenure in Delhi, Kumar held the positions of chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and managing director of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). Naresh Kumar was born on November 18, 1963. He is from Delhi. At the age of 23, he was selected for the UPSC Civil Services exam. His joining was on 24th August 1987.



Ajay Kumar Sood Named As Principal Scientific Advisor To Gol :-

According to a personnel ministry order, eminent physicist Ajay Kumar Sood has been appointed as the government's principal scientific advisor (PSA). Sood, a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council, has been appointed to the post for a three-year term, succeeding renowned biologist K VijayRaghavan. The PSA's office seeks to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the prime minister and cabinet on science, technology, and innovation issues, with a focus on the application of science and technology in critical infrastructure, economic, and social sectors in collaboration with government departments, institutions, and industry.



Babita Singh Selected As New Global Peace Ambassador 2022 :-

For promoting Peace through Education, Sports, Art, Culture & Diplomacy serial entrepreneur Babita Singh has been conferred as a Global Peace Ambassador at the India International Conclave 2022 held in collaboration with Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) that took place on 16th April 2022 in Shangrila, New Delhi. Babita Singh was personally recognised for her outstanding contribution to peace-building initiatives through sports and culture. Babita is a global business professional with 20 years of experience in the hospitality, sports management, and cyber security industries.



Suman K. Bery replaces Rajiv Kumar as NITI Aayog Vice Chairman :-

Suman K Bery, a former director general of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, will succeed Rajiv Kumar as Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog (NCAER). Bery is now a non-resident fellow at Bruegel, a European

economic think tank. Kumar was appointed vice chairman in August 2017 after his predecessor, Arvind Panagariya, resigned from NITI Aayog, which replaced the Planning Commission. According to a government order, Bery will join on May 1, 2022. Kumar earned a DPhil in economics from Oxford and a PhD in economics from Lucknow University. He worked as a senior research fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR). He has written a number of books on the Indian economy and national security.



Ashwin Yardi, CEO Of Capgemini India, Joins The UNICEF YuWaah Board :-

Ashwin Yardi, the CEO of Capgemini in India, has been named co-chair of UNICEF's YuWaah' - the Indian chapter of Generation Unlimited. Yardi will co-chair the event with UNICEF Representative Yasumasa Kimura. Yardi described YuWaah's work to improve skilling, community development, and economic opportunity for young people is truly one of the enduring legacies of the last two-plus years. I'm looking forward to working with the board as a co-chair and founding partner, as well as bringing Capgemini's support as a partner to connect young people with opportunities on a large scale, he added. Generation Unlimited or YuWaah, supported by UNICEF, is a platform to bring young people together with the private sector, governments, and international and local organisations to turn them into active and engaged citizens.

4: Awards



Actress Deepika Padukone Named In Inaugural TIME100 Impact Award :-

Deepika Padukone, an Indian actress, has been honoured with the TIME100 Impact Award, joining a list of other influential people from around the world. For those unfamiliar with the TIME100, it is a celebration of leaders

who have worked tirelessly to shape the future of their industries and the world at large. The TIME100 Impact Awards are the first of their kind, with TIME recently announcing the first group of dignitaries and achievers to receive the honour in the list's inaugural year.



President Kovind Confers National Water Awards 2022 :-

At the third National Water Awards event in New Delhi, President Ram Nath Kovind awarded Uttar Pradesh the title of "Best State," followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The Ministry of Jal Shakti awards the National Water Awards for outstanding work in the field of water management and the expansion of water campaigns to emphasise the importance of water. The President appealed to the people to ensure the campaign's success, stating that the water crisis has had an international impact. He believes that water conservation should be made a national campaign.



Journalist Aarefa Johari awarded Chameli Devi Jain Award 2021:-

Aarefa Johari, a journalist based in Mumbai, was named the winner of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Mediaperson 2021 on Sunday, April 3. The annual Chameli Devi Jain Award, established in 1982, is a prestigious recognition for women journalists in India who have reported on topics such as social development, politics, equity, gender justice, health, war and conflict, and consumer values. The jury praised Johari's work, praising it for its combination of meticulous reporting, humanism, and empathy, all of which reflected a high level of journalistic excellence.



Mirabai Chanu Bagged 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year' Award 2021 :-

Mirabai Chanu, an Olympic silver medalist, has been named the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year for 2021. The weightlifter finished second in the 49kg category at the Tokyo Olympics, earning a silver medal. Chanu won the award over the other four nominees, who included ace shuttler PV Sindhu, golfer Aditi Ashok, boxer Lovlina Borgohain, and para-shooter Avani Lekhara. Karnam Malleswari, the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in weightlifting in 2000, received the BBC Lifetime Achievement award.



Ramdarash Mishra Named For Saraswati Samman 2021 :-

Prof Ramdarash Mishra, a noted poet and litterateur, will receive the prestigious Saraswati Samman in 2021 for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun,' the KK Birla Foundation announced in a statement. Saraswati

Samman, established in 1991, is one of the country's most prestigious literary awards. Every year, it is given to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the previous ten years. It comes with a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of 15 lakh rupees.



Vice President Confers Sangeet Natak Akademi And Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowships And Awards :-

At a special function in New Delhi Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented eminent artists with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Sangeet Natak Awards for the year 2018, as well as the Lalit Kala Akademi National Awards. Four artists received Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships, while 40 others received Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards. The Lalit Kala Akademi Awards were given to 23 individuals, including three fellows. Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, Jatin Goswami, Dr. Sonal Mansingh, and Thiruvaidaimarudur Kuppiah Kalyanasundaram are the four fellows who have received Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship.



IndusInd Bank's 'Indus Merchant Solutions' App Won Digital CX Awards 2022 :-

In the recently concluded Digital CX Awards 2022, IndusInd Bank's flagship mobile application for merchants – 'Indus Merchant Solutions' – was named 'Outstanding Digital CX - SME Payments' IndusInd Bank announced. The Digital CX Awards are organised by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider that recognises the world's leading Financial Services Organizations (FSO) that combine the best of technology, innovation, and people power to provide a superior customer experience and reinvent their industry. This year's awards received over 600 submissions from 127 marquee FSOs from around the world.



Veteran Bengali Author Amar Mitra Wins Prestigious O. Henry Award :-

This year's O. Henry prize was awarded to Bengali author Amar Mitra for a short story he wrote 45 years ago. The short story titled 'Gaonburo' was written in Bengali in 1977. Mitra is a well-known Bengali writer who was born in Kolkata. He spent some of his childhood in Bengali districts, where he became acquainted with the Adivasi culture and their struggle. This is the background to Mitra's award-winning story. "It's a political story which fits into today's world. I believe that is the reason the selection committee liked it so much", he said while receiving the award.



Assamese Poet Nilamani Phookan Conferred With 56th Jnanpith Award :-

Nilamani Phookan, an eminent Assamese poet, received the 56th Jnanpith Award at a ceremony. Given Phookan's health issues, the award ceremony was held for the first time in Assam. He has reached the age of 88. The Jnanpith Award is India's most prestigious literary honour. Phookan was presented with the trophy, a cheque, and other mementos by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Pratibha Ray, Chairperson of the Jnanpith Selection Board. The well-known poet is well-known for his pro-people writings.



PM Narendra Modi To Be Honoured With 1st Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar. On April 11, 2022, the late singer's family announced this. The Prime Minister will be the award's first recipient. He will receive the award at the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony on April 24, the 80th death anniversary of the

legend's father, Master Deenanath Mangeshkar. The new award was announced by Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Lata Mangeshkar's younger brother.



Falguni Nayar Awarded EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Award 2021 :-

Falguni Nayar, the founder and CEO of Nykaa, was named 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021' at a ceremony in Mumbai. She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award, which will take place in June of this year. "Her start-up, Nykaa, is one of the profitable start-ups in the country with a strong omni-channel presence," according to an EY statement. Nykaa has expanded from beauty to fashion and lifestyle, with a portfolio of over 2,600 international brands and over 100 offline stores.

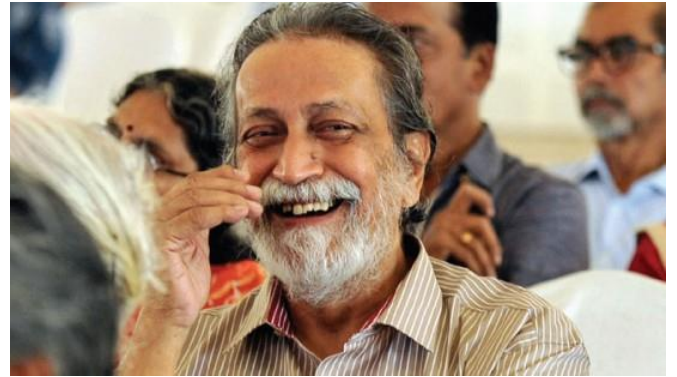


STATE OF GOVERNANCE

12th APR 2022 | 1030-1800

NMDC Wins Gold And Silver Awards At 80th SKOCH Summit 2022 :-

National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), the largest iron ore producer in India, under the Ministry of Steel, won one gold and one silver award at the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards, which were recently held in New Delhi by SKOCH. NMDC received the Gold Award in the category of social responsibility for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi' and the Silver Award in the category of digital inclusion for the ERP implementation project 'Project Kalpataru'. Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance), accepted the awards on behalf of Chairman and Managing Director, Shri Sumit Deb, via video conferencing.



Prabhat Patnaik Named For Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022 :-

According to a statement from the Malcolm and Elizebeth Adiseshiah Trust, Prabhat Patnaik, an economist and political commentator, will receive the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award in 2022. Every year, a prestigious national award is given to an outstanding social scientist chosen from nominations received by a national-level jury. Patnaik, who taught at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi and served as vice-chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board, was chosen unanimously by the jury.



Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Presents International Gandhi Award For Leprosy, 2021 :-

At a ceremony in New Delhi, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 to Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and the Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust of Gujarat. The Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation established the annual award. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Naidu praised the recipients' efforts, noting that both Dr. Bhushan Kumar and the Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust have been working hard to raise awareness about leprosy and provide care to those affected by it.



UDAN Scheme Selected For PM Award For Excellence In Public Administration 2020 :-

The flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has been selected for the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 in the

category "Innovation (General) – Central." This award was created by the Centre to recognise, acknowledge, and reward exceptional and innovative work done by State/Government Districts and Organizations. The UDAN scheme, which was launched in 2016, aims to fulfil the aspirations of the common man by implementing the vision of UdeDeshkaAamNagrik through improved aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and III cities.



AIMA Honours Shoojit Sircar With Director Of The Year Award :-

Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways, presented the 2021 AIMA Managing India Awards (AIMA) in multiple categories at an award ceremony in Delhi. Shoojit Sircar received the Director Of The Year award for Sardar Udham in the film category. Every year, AIMA bestows the Director Of The Year award on someone "who has exemplified the spirit of filmmaking and created a masterpiece out of it". Nitin Gadkari, who presented the awards, stated that "they reflected society's recognition and respect for the work of the awardees".



IndusInd Bank Won Global 'Celent Model Bank' Award For Its EPH Initiative :-

IndusInd Bank has announced that it has received the global 'Celent Model Bank' award in the category of 'Payments System Transformation' for developing a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH). The award recognises the Bank's outstanding journey in developing a cloud-based central payments hub capable of processing high transaction loads originating from all types of payment instructions and all originating client touchpoints. Speaking about the award, Biswabrata Chakravorty, Head – Information Technology, IndusInd Bank said, "We are honoured to have been recognized for our efforts at the prestigious Celent Model Bank awards."



Indian-American Defense Expert Vivek Lall Selected For The 6th Entrepreneur Leadership Award 2022 :-

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce has chosen Indian-American General Atomics Global Corporation CEO Vivek Lall for the prestigious Entrepreneur Leadership Awards in recognition of his contributions to the defence industry. The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), founded in 1968, is the premier bi-lateral chamber that promotes India-US economic engagement. Lall, 53, was chosen for the "Global Leader in Defence & Aviation Sector" award category, which was presented virtually at an awards ceremony. The event's

Chief Guest was Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia.



NMDC wins Public Relations Awards 2022 :-

NMDC was awarded the Public Relations Awards 2022 by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), taking first place in four categories. This award was given to the mining company for their Corporate Website, Annual Report, Newsletter Layout and Design, and CSR Corporate Video. NMDC is a state-controlled mineral producer of the Government of India. It is wholly owned by the Government of India and is administered by the Ministry of Steel. Shri Praveen Kumar, Executive Director (Personnel), and Shri Ch. On behalf of the Navratna PSU, Srinivasa Rao, DGM (Corporate Communications), accepted the awards, and the Honorable Minister Shri V Srinivas Goud lauded the PR industry's efforts in building an informed society and congratulated the winners.

5: Banking



RBI : Banks Reported Fraud Totaling Rs 34,000 Crore :-

In the nine months ending December, 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions reported 96 cases of fraud totaling Rs 34,097 crore. According to Reserve Bank of India data, while Punjab National Bank had the highest value of frauds at Rs 4,820 crore, Bank of India had the highest number of frauds at 13. In response to a question in the Rajya Sabha during the budget session, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad provided bank-specific details of frauds totaling more than Rs 100 crore. Between April and December, these were reported by scheduled commercial banks and select financial institutions.



HDFC ERGO Launched "VAULT" Digital Customer Engagement And Rewards Program :-

With the launch of the VAULT programme, an industry-first digital customer engagement and rewards programme, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, a leading private general insurer and digital-first company, leads the way in customer loyalty. These cash-equivalent reward points can be redeemed against a variety of wellness offers such as pharmacy vouchers, doctor consultations, and so on, or they can be used to support social causes or to purchase insurance products.



Central Bank Of India Partnered With Kwik.ID To Digitize Customer Onboarding :-

With an aim to bring better onboarding and digitisation practices Central Bank of India has selected Kwik.ID to implement digital KYC, video KYC and eKYC for its network across India. According to a press release, this partnership will assist the bank in driving its digital transformation agenda and supporting digital finance initiatives championed by the Government of India. The bank intends to digitise 10 million customer onboardings per year and streamline their end-to-end processes with the Kwik.ID-AI-based fully compliant Video KYC solution.



Axis Bank Aquired Citibank's India Consumer Business :-

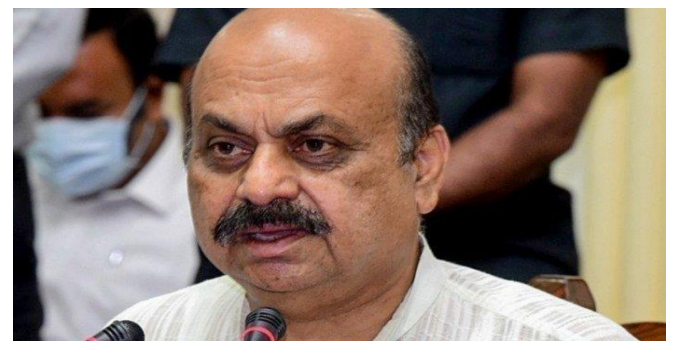
As part of its plans to exit retail operations in 13 markets US bank Citigroup has announced sale of its Indian consumer banking businesses, including credit cards, retail banking, wealth management and consumer loans,

to private lender Axis Bank for Rs 12,325 crore. The deal, which is expected to close in the first half of the 2023 calendar year, will include the transfer of about 3,600 Citi employees to Axis. Citi's institutional client businesses in India are not included in the sale, according to the company. Axis Bank is the fourth-largest credit card issuer in the country, with a total base of 8.6 million cards, and the deal will add about 2.5 million credit cardholders, making it one of the top three card businesses in the country, according to a separate statement from the private lender.



Union Bank Launches Super-App UnionNXT And Digital Project SAMBHAV :-

Union Bank of India has launched UnionNXT, its super-app, and the digital transformation project SMBHAV, with an investment of around Rs 1,000 crore for the fiscal year 2022-23. (FY23). The public sector lender anticipates a two-year recovery from the spending and hopes to have 50% of business originate on the digital platform by 2025. With this, it joins the ranks of super-apps from large lenders such as State Bank of India's Yono, Bank of Baroda's Bob World, HDFC Bank's PayZapp, and ICICI Bank's iMobile.



Karnataka Establishes Cooperative Bank For Milk Producers :-

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai established the 'Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank', calling it a revolutionary initiative. He also stated that it would benefit milk producers financially. The Chief Minister was speaking after unveiling the logo of the Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Sahakara Bank at a ceremony attended by Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah. The state government contributed Rs.100 crore as its share capital, while the Milk Federation and Cooperatives contributed Rs.260 crore as their share capital for the proposed cooperative bank, which would stimulate massive economic activity in the rural hinterland, according to Bommai.



Axis Bank And IDBI Bank Have Each Been Fined Rs 93 Lakh By The RBI :-

The Reserve Bank of India announced that it has fined Axis Bank Rs 93 lakh for various violations, including those relating to KYC guidelines. IDBI Bank has also been fined Rs 93 lakh by the central bank. IDBI Bank was fined for failing to follow instructions on 'frauds - classification and reporting by commercial banks and select financial institutions.' The RBI, on the other hand, stated that the penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by them with their respective customers.



RBI Issues Guidelines For Setting Up Digital Banking Units :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for the establishment of Digital Banking Units (DBUs) following Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in her Budget speech for the fiscal year 2022-2023 of the establishment of 75 DBUs in 75 districts to commemorate our country's 75th year of independence (Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav). DBU is a specialised fixed point business unit/hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services, as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally, in both self-service and assisted mode, to enable customers to have cost effective/ convenient access and better digital experience to/ of such products and services in an efficient, paperless, secured and connected environment with most services being available in self-service mode at any time, all year round, stated RBI in its guidelines.



Kotak Mahindra Bank Launches Digital Platform, FYN :-

A new enterprise portal 'Kotak FYN' which is designed specifically for Business Banking and Corporate clients has been launched by Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL). Customers of the bank can use the portal to conduct all trade and service transactions. According to a press release, the Kotak FYN portal will include many other services, including account services, payments, and collections, by the fourth quarter of 2022. Kotak FYN aims to provide customers with a unified experience across all product platforms. The portal ensures paperless transactions and the ability to track transactions from beginning to end.



Nexo Launched World's 1st Crypto-Backed Payment Card "Nexo Card" :-

Nexo, a cryptocurrency lender, announced a partnership with global payments company Mastercard to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card. As digital assets become more mainstream, this is the latest move by crypto and traditional financial networks to join forces. Nexo stated that the card, which will initially be available in a few European countries, will allow users to spend without having to sell their digital assets, such as bitcoin, which are used as collateral to back the credit granted. The majority of traditional credit cards are unsecured and have a predetermined credit limit. The card is linked to a Nexo-provided, crypto-backed credit line and can be used at any of the world's 92 million Mastercard-accepting merchants.



Fino Payments Bank To Buy 12.19% Stake In Paysprint Pvt Ltd :-

Fino Payments Bank Limited announced that its board of directors has approved a minority strategic investment by the bank in Paysprint Private Limited, based in New Delhi. By subscribing to its shares, the bank will invest up to 12.19 percent in fintech. Paysprint, a profitable fintech, is a rapidly growing financial technology company that provides next-generation APIs in banking, payments, travel, lending, insurance, and investment, among other areas. It assists payments service providers in providing seamless services to customers by providing a Unified Open API Platform with fast and complete integration and a plug and play model.



Manappuram Finance Fined Rs 17.63 Lakh By The RBI:-

Manappuram Financing, a non-banking finance company, has been fined Rs 17 lakh by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for violating KYC and prepaid payment instrument norms. The company was discovered to be in

violation of RBI KYC and minor PPI standards. As a result, the entity was given notice to show cause why a penalty for failing to follow the orders should not be imposed. After reviewing the entity's response and conducting a personal hearing, the RBI determined that the aforementioned accusation of noncompliance with RBI orders was proven and warranted the imposition of monetary penalties.



Dhanlaxmi Bank Signed MoU With CBDT, CBIC For Tax Collection :-

Dhanlaxmi Bank said it has signed a memorandum of understanding for tax collection with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised Dhanlaxmi Bank to collect various taxes based on a recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts, according to a regulatory filing. Customers will soon be able to pay their direct taxes, GST payments, and other indirect taxes through the bank's branch network and digital platforms, according to the announcement. The bank was appointed as a 'Agency Bank' by the RBI in October to handle general banking operations for the central and state governments on their behalf.

6: Books and Author



A Book Titled 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya' Authored By K Syam Prasad :-

The Vice President has launched a book titled 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya,' which chronicles the life of late Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a well-known Andhra Pradesh social worker. Shri Naidu described Shri Somayya as one of his most important 'gurus,' crediting him with shaping his personality at a young age. Shri Naidu recalled Shri Somayya's contributions in relief and reconstruction activities for the cyclone victims in Andhra Pradesh and

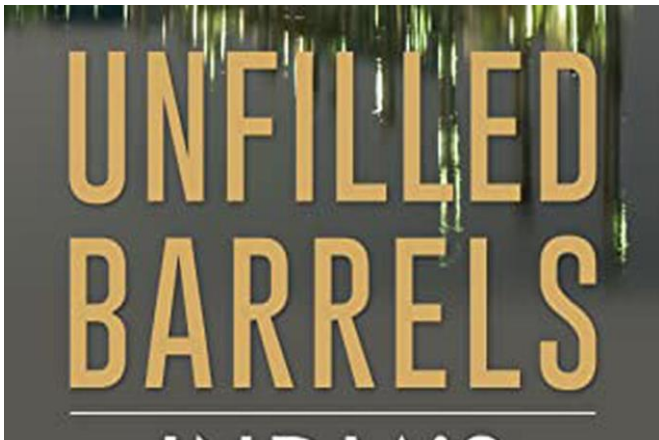
said that he 'inspired many youth to devote their lives for the welfare of the people.' The Vice President praised Shri Somayya for his commitment to nationalistic values and encouraged young people to read and be inspired by the lives of such leaders and freedom fighters.



NITI Aayog And FAO Launch Book Titled 'Indian Agriculture Towards 2030' :-

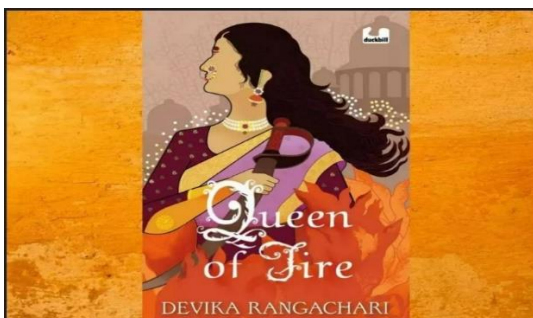
At an event co-hosted by NITI Aayog and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) Shri Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled 'Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security, and Sustainable

Food and Farm Systems. The book, published by Springer, captures the outcomes of a deliberative process led by NITI Aayog and the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, as well as Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, and facilitated by FAO since 2019.



A book titled "Unfilled Barrels India's oil story" authored by Richa Mishra :-

Richa Mishra's book "Unfilled Barrels: India's Oil Story" has been published. Richa Mishra works for The Hindu BusinessLine as a journalist. The book emphasises the key role of Keshav Dev Malaviya, the petroleum minister in the 1970s with a degree in oil technology, as well as the emergence of other stakeholders ranging from public sector enterprises such as ONGC to fiercely competitive private players such as Cairn Energy and Mukesh Ambani's RIL.



A New Book Titled "Queen Of Fire" Authored By Devika Rangachari :-

The gripping novel 'Queen of Fire' by award-winning children's writer and historian Devika Rangachari sheds light on the brave queen and fearsome warrior Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, whose cry of revolt against the British Raj mobilised thousands of Indian soldiers to join the 1057 National Uprising. Rangachari's book, published by Penguin Random House India, is intended for readers aged 13 to 17. It follows Lakshmibai's life as a queen, soldier, and statesman.



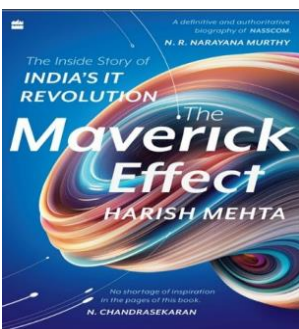
Dharmendra Pradhan Releases Book Titled "Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak" :-

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has published a biography of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda. Prof Alok Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, wrote the book titled 'Birsa Munda - Janjatiya Nayak.' Pradhan described the book as a comprehensive attempt to bring to light Bhagwan Birsa Munda's struggle and the contribution of forest dwellers to the freedom movement. He praised Chakrawal for making an effort to inscribe the story of the unsung heroes of freedom in the national memory on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.



A New Book Titled “Decoding Indian Babudom” Authored By Ashwini Shrivastava :-

Ashwini Shrivastava's new book, "Decoding Indian Babudom," published by Vitasta Publishing Private Limited, has been released. This is a first-of-its-kind book by an Indian journalist covering the country's bureaucratic system. It focuses on India's administrative system and how governance works from the perspective of the average citizen. The author proposed "15 Sutras" to achieve good and effective governance, which can attract investment by increasing businessmen's trust in the administration.



A Book Titled ‘The Maverick Effect’ Authored By Harish Mehta :-

"The Maverick Effect," a new book published by HarperCollins India, tells the untold story of how, in the

1970s and 1980s, a "band of dreamers" came together to form NASSCOM and pave the way for India's IT revolution. Harish Mehta, the co-founder and first elected Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), wrote the book, which is billed as an authoritative biography of the apex body of software and IT service companies.



“Tiger Of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero” Authored By Meena Nayyar & Himmat Singh :-

Meena Nayyar, mother of Captain Anuj Nayyar and Himmat Singh Shekhawat, founder of Rashtriya Riders, a biking group that honours the men and women in uniform, has written a new book titled "Tiger of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero," which has been published by HarperCollins Publishers India. For motivating his command by personal example and going beyond the call of duty, Capt. Anuj Nayyar was awarded India's second-highest gallantry award, the Maha Vir Chakra, in 2000.



‘Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings With BCCI’, Book By Former CAG Vinod Rai :-

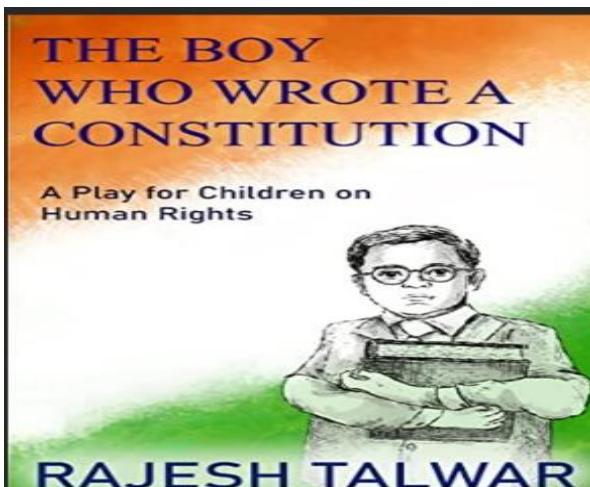
Vinod Rai, the former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and chief of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) in 2017, has written a book titled "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI," published by Rupa Publications, in which he encapsulates his 33-month stint at the BCCI. Rai – whose tenure as president of one of the world's wealthiest sports organisations ended in September 2019 – makes some startling revelations in the book.

are other children just like themselves who don't have it so easy".



Naveen Patnaik Released 2 Books "The Magic Of Mangalajodi" & "The Sikh History Of East India" :-

Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha, has published two books. The first is Avinash Khemka's coffee table book "The Magic of Mangalajodi," and the second is a compilation of Sikh history from eastern India called "The Sikh History of East India." Patnaik praised the author for the book, saying that the exemplary efforts made by Khemka to capture and portray the life and essence of Mangalajodi in Chilika and its surroundings through the book are praiseworthy. The book 'Sikh History of Eastern India' is a rigorous research work by Abinash Mohapatra on Sikh history and philosophy according to the CMO. It's a compilation of eight books authored by Mohapatra himself. Author Mohapatra is a scholar of Sikh History based in Odisha. He has authored 38 books on Sikh history, theology and principles.



A New Children's Book Titled "The Boy Who Wrote A Constitution " Has Been Released :-

On the occasion of Dr. BR Ambedkar's 131st birth anniversary, a new book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution" was released to educate children about the challenging boyhood and growing up years of India's first law minister. Rajesh Talwar, a noted playwright and author, wrote the fact-based drama, which is based largely on Ambedkar's own recollection of his childhood. It is published by Ponytale Books. Rajesh Talwar said "I wrote the book for several reasons. All children reading about Babasaheb's childhood experiences will be inspired by his determination and heroic struggle against all odds. Secondly, non-Dalit children will learn that there

7: Defence



US, Philippines Kick Off 'Balikatan 2022' Military Drill :-

On March 28, the Philippines and the United States held their largest-ever joint military drill, Balikatan 2022, signalling a strengthening of defence ties as new tensions in the disputed South China Sea surface. The war games are the final ones under outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, who threatened to cancel them and scrap a key military agreement with longtime ally the United States as he shifted his focus to China. Nearly 9,000 Filipino and American soldiers will take part in a 12-day training exercise across Luzon's main island, which is usually an annual event but was cancelled or shortened due to the pandemic.



DRDO Successfully Test-Fire Indian Army "MRSAM" Missile :-

Off the coast of Odisha, the DRDO conducted two back-to-back successful tests of the Army version of the Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) against high-speed aerial targets at two different ranges. The tests were carried out as part of live firing trials against high-speed aerial targets at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur. This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the Indian Army. The missile's first test took place in December 2020.



IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) Concludes In Arabian Sea :-

From March 26 to 30, 2022, the inaugural edition of the IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was held in Goa and the Arabian Sea. The exercise's goal was to improve interoperability among member navies in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Sixteen of the IONS's twenty-five member countries took part in the exercise. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), founded in 2007, is a premier forum for cooperation and collaboration among the navies of the Indian Ocean Region's littoral states. The forum has allowed for discussions on regional maritime issues, the promotion of friendly relationships, and a significant improvement in maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.



20th India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA -2022':-

From March 30 to April 3, 2022, India and France conducted the 20th edition of the bilateral naval exercise 'Varuna' in the Arabian Sea. The two navies' ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft, and helicopters all took part in the exercise. These units have worked hard to improve and hone their maritime operational skills, increase their interoperability to conduct maritime security operations, and demonstrate their commitment to promoting peace, security, and stability in the region as an integrated force.



Two Battalions Of The Dogra Regiment Were Presented With The President's Colours :-

During an impressive Color Presentation Parade held at the Dogra Regimental Centre in Faizabad (UP), General MM Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff, presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to two battalions of the Dogra Regiment, namely 20 DOGRA and 21 DOGRA . After reviewing the parade, the Army Chief praised the Dogra Regiment's rich traditions in all spheres of military activity, including operations, training, and sports. The

Army Chief also congratulated the newly raised units on their outstanding performance in such a short period of time and expressed his best wishes to all ranks to serve the country with pride.



Vice Chief Lt Gen Manoj Pande All Set To Become Next Army Chief :-

Army Vice Lieutenant General Manoj Pande is set to take over as Chief of the Army Staff, with incumbent Army Chief General M.M. Naravane, widely regarded as the frontrunner for the position of Chief of Defence Staff, set to retire at the end of this month. Lt Gen Pande, the force's senior most officer after General Naravane, will assume command. Meanwhile, following the death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash in December last year, Gen Naravane is the front-runner for the position of Chief of Defence Staff. On December 8, 2021, General Rawat, his wife Madhulika, and 12 armed personnel were killed in a helicopter crash.



HAL And Israel Aerospace Have Teamed Up To Convert Civil Aeroplanes Into Mid-Air Refuellers :-

To convert civil passenger aircraft to “multi mission tanker transport” (MMTT) aircraft in India Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been attempting to acquire six MMTT aircraft to supplement its eight obsolescent Russian Ilyushin-78 refuellers for the past decade and a half. The IAF's refueller shortage is so severe that, in order to fly in its new Rafale fighters from France, it had to request Airbus refuellers to top up the Rafales' fuel tanks over the Mediterranean Sea.



DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) Technology :-

On April 8, 2022, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully flight tested a Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The test successfully demonstrated the dependability of all critical components in the complex missile system and met all mission objectives. Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri, congratulated DRDO on the successful trial of SFDR. He described it as a significant step forward in the country's development of critical missile technologies.



Khanjar 2022: The 9th Edition Of The India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise :-

The 9th Edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise, which began on March 25th at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, concluded on April 06th. During the two-week exercise, Special Forces contingents from India and Kyrgyzstan shared their expertise and best practises in tactics, techniques, and procedures for countering existing and emerging threats across the entire spectrum of conflict. Aside from sharing special skills and techniques among participating Special Forces contingents, the joint training strengthened the existing bond between India and Kyrgyzstan that has grown over years of mutual respect for strategic autonomy, democratic values, and zero tolerance for terrorism.



India successfully flight-tested Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System :-

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army successfully flight-tested the Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems at the Pokhran firing ranges. During the tests, a total of 24 EPRS rockets were fired at various ranges. The rockets met all

of the trial objectives with the required accuracy and consistency. The Pinaka rocket system was developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment in Pune, with assistance from the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another DRDO laboratory in Pune.



DRDO Conducts Successful Flight-Test Of Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'Helina' :-

On April 12, 2022, the indigenously-developed Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' was successfully flight-tested from an Advanced Light Helicopter as part of the ongoing user validation trials. The trial was conducted at a high altitude range by teams from the Indian Air Force and Indian Army, as well as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). This is the second successful flight test in a row. 'Helina' is a third-generation, fire-and-forget Anti-Tank Guided Missile capable of engaging targets in both direct hit and top attack modes. The system is capable of defeating battle tanks with both conventional and explosive reactive armour in all weather conditions, day and night.



Advanced Light Helicopter MK III Squadron Commissioned By ICG :-

To improve maritime security the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III squadron. These helicopters also have an array of cutting-edge sensors, which contribute to the Indian Coast Guard's maritime prowess at sea. They are equipped with a traffic alert and collision avoidance system, advanced communication systems, a heavy machine gun, a removable Medical Intensive Care Unit, and other amenities. According to the statement, four such helicopters are stationed in Bhubaneswar, covering the entire coast of West Bengal and Orissa.



Trishakti Corps Conducts EX KRIPAN SHAKTI In West Bengal:-

On 12 April 2022, the Trishakti Corps conducted Ex Kripan Shakti, an Integrated Fire Power exercise at Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR) near Siliguri (WB). The exercise's goal was to orchestrate and synergize the capabilities of the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces in order to fight a coordinated battle. During the exercise, Trishakti Corps units demonstrated their ability to hit hard and quickly with precision. To carry out the 'Sensor to Shooter' concept, all arms and weapon systems were used, including guns, mortars, infantry combat vehicles, helicopters, and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance platforms.



National Level Pollution Response Exercise 'NATPOLREX-VIII' Of Indian Coast Guard :-

The eighth edition of the National Level Pollution Response Exercise NATPOLREX, conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off the coast of Mormugao harbour in Goa, was inaugurated by Union Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar. The defence secretary kicked off a two-day exercise to prepare for a marine spill. The goal of NATPOLREX-VIII is to improve the preparedness and response capability of all stakeholders in the fight against marine spills. It aims to validate the procedures and guidelines outlined in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) at the national and regional levels, under the auspices of the SACEP MoU, of which India is a member state.



Scorpene-Class Submarine 'VAGSHEER' Inaugurated At Mazagon Dock Limited :-

The sixth Scorpene-class submarine under Project-75, INS Vagsheer, was launched at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai by defence secretary Ajay Kumar, bolstering India's naval fleet. Vagsheer is named after the sand fish, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean. The first submarine, ex-Russia (then Soviet Union), Vagsheer, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on December 26, 1974, and decommissioned on April 30, 1997, after nearly three decades of maritime service. The Mazagon Dock has so far delivered four Scorpene-class submarines to the Indian Navy as part of the project – INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj, and INS Vela.

8: Economy



NARCL Received A Rs 108.81 Crore Investment From Bank Of India :-

The Bank of India (BoI) has announced a Rs 109 crore investment in National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL). In a regulatory filing, the bank stated, "We hereby inform that on March 21, 2022, bank has invested Rs 108.81 crore in National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), under preferential share issue." By March 21, 2022, the bank's stake in NARCL will have grown to 9%. NARCL is a government-backed asset reconstruction company that was founded in July 2021.



Uday Kotak Resigns As The Chairman Of IL&FS :-

Uday Kotak is stepping down as non-executive chairman of IL&FS, three and a half years after the government and regulators tasked him with rescuing the infrastructure financing behemoth. Kotak, who has frequently been asked to act as a troubleshooter in poorly run businesses, is leaving with more than half the job completed. IL&FS said in a statement that a government-appointed board led by Kotak had resolved debt totaling over Rs 55,000 crore out of a total of Rs 99,000 crore. On April 2, Kotak will step down. C.S. Rajan has been named chairman and managing director of IL&FS by the Union government, and he will take over on April 3 for a six-month term.



RBI Unveiled Framework For Geo-Tagging Of Payment System Touch Points :-

The Reserve Bank of India has published a framework for geo-tagging payment system touch points in order to ensure proper monitoring of payment acceptance infrastructure availability. Merchants use geo-tagging to capture the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) of payment touch points they use to accept payments from customers. Point of Sale terminals and

Quick Response codes are part of the payment acceptance infrastructure. The Reserve Bank of India is focusing on deepening digital payments and providing universal access to all citizens of the country, according to the bank.



Microsoft Launched 'Startups Founders Hub' Platform :-

Microsoft announced the launch of the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub in India, which will provide early-stage startup founders in India with over \$300,000 in benefits and credits. It will provide startups with free access to the technology, tools, and resources they require to build and operate their businesses. All startups in India, including those without third-party validation or funding, can access the Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub.



GoI Keeps Interest Rates On Small Savings Schemes Unchanged For Q1 (April-June) of FY23 :-

The finance ministry has left interest rates on government-backed saving instruments unchanged for the first quarter (April-June) of FY23, providing relief to the middle class and small savers. The decision came just days after the interest rate on employees' provident fund organisation (EPFO) deposits was reduced to a four-decade low of 8.1 percent for FY22, down from 8.5 percent the year before. Rising inflation and the possibility of the Reserve Bank of India reversing its accommodative policy stance, which could lead to an increase in interest rates, may have prevented the government from lowering small savings rates.



Centre Extended Foreign Trade Policy Till Sept 30 :-

To ensure policy continuity in external trade, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) extended the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) (2015-20) by another six months until September 30. The development comes amid global trade disruptions caused by a month-long standoff between Russia and Ukraine. The FTP is a detailed policy guideline as well as a strategy for promoting the export of goods and services. The previous policy took effect on April 1, 2015, and was valid for five years.



Cabinet Approves Increase In Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief By 3% To 34% :-

The proposal to increase the dearness allowance for central government employees and pensioners by 3 per cent to 34 per cent of the basic pay from 31 per cent previously, effective January 1, 2022 has been approved the cabinet. That increase in DA is per the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th central pay commission. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has given its approval to release an additional instalment of dearness allowance (DA) to central government employees and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners effective January 1 this year.



HDFC Bank to merge with housing finance firm HDFC Ltd :-

According to the companies, HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, will merge with Housing Development Finance Corporation or HDFC Ltd, the country's largest housing finance company, to form a financial services conglomerate. As part of the agreement, HDFC Ltd shareholders will receive 42 shares of the bank in exchange for 25 shares held. Existing HDFC Ltd shareholders will own 41% of HDFC Bank. The housing

finance company's shares in the lender will be extinguished, transforming HDFC Bank into a fully-fledged public company. HDFC Ltd's subsidiaries and associates will be transferred to HDFC Bank, the companies announced in a regulatory filing.



India's exports rose 40% in 2021-22 to hit a record \$417.8 billion :-

Due to strong growth in non-petroleum products, India's merchandise exports will reach an all-time high of nearly \$418 billion in 2021-22. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, exports reached \$417.8 billion in the current fiscal year, excluding data from non-EDI ports, and are on track to exceed \$418 billion, an all-time high in India's export history. Non-petroleum goods exports increased significantly in April 2021-March 2022, reaching USD 352.76 billion, a 32.62 percent increase over USD 266.00 billion in April 2020-March 2021 and a 29.66 percent increase over USD 272.07 billion in April 2019-March 2020.



Flipkart Launched Flipkart Foundation For Growth Of Rural Area And Women :-

The Flipkart Group, a Walmart-backed homegrown e-commerce giant, announced the formation and launch of the Flipkart Foundation with a focus on rural areas and equitable access to growth opportunities for women and other disadvantaged communities, the Flipkart Foundation aims to positively impact 20 million lives directly and indirectly over the next decade. The Flipkart Foundation operates on a grant basis, with contributions from the Flipkart Group and through the 'Charity Checkout' feature available on Flipkart platforms, which allows for easy and seamless philanthropic giving.



RBI Fixed WMA Limit For States/UTs At Rs 47,010 Crores :-

With the pandemic situation improving, the Reserve Bank decided to reduce the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and union territories to Rs 47,010 crore from Rs 51,560 crore. WMAs are short-term advances made by the RBI to the government to cover any shortfalls in receipts and payments. Given the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, the RBI increased the WMA limit for all states to Rs 51,560 crore. The higher WMA was in effect until March 31, 2022.



Govt collected Record Rs 1.42 lakh crores as GST In March 2022 :-

According to data released by the Union Finance Ministry on 01 April, gross collections of Goods and Services Tax (GST) marking a new high since its rollout in July 2017 rose to Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March, for sales in February, a 14.7% increase from March 2021 and a 45.6% increase from March 2020. The sharp surge has come on the back of anti-evasion measures, “especially action against fake billers”, and a pick-up in economic activity. The average monthly gross GST collections for FY22 now stands at Rs 1.23 lakh crore, which is 30.5 per cent higher than the monthly average seen in the previous fiscal.



Jio-Bp And TVS Motor To Collaborate On EV Solutions :-

Jio-bp and TVS Motor Company have announced an agreement to investigate the establishment of a robust public EV charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the country, building on Jio-growing bp's network in this space. Customers of TVS electric vehicles are expected to gain access to Jio-

extensive bp's charging network, which is also open to other vehicles, under this proposed partnership.



RBI Monetary Policy 2022 :-

According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate unchanged at 4% for the eleventh time in a row while maintaining a 'accommodative stance'. The central bank governor said that the MPC had voted unanimously to maintain the accommodative stance and added that the reverse repo rate too was kept unchanged at 3.35 per cent. The RBI had last revised its policy repo rate or the short-term lending rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low.



Gujarat Govt To Receive Rs 7,500 Cr Loan From World Bank, AIIB :-

According to an official, the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide a loan of Rs 7,500 crore to the Gujarat government's Mission

School of Excellence project, which aims to improve the quality of education in the state. The state government will spend Rs 10,000 crore over the next five years on the Mission School of Excellence project, which will cover all 35,133 government and 5,847 grant-in-aid schools in the state. This ambitious project is expected to directly benefit nearly one crore school students over the next five years.



India's Agriculture Exports Cross USD 50 Billion Mark For First Time :-

According to government data, agricultural product exports surpassed the USD 50 billion mark for the first time during the fiscal year 2021-22, owing to healthy growth in sugar, rice, wheat, and other cereals exports. According to preliminary figures released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), agricultural exports increased to USD 50.21 billion in 2021-22, representing a 19.92% increase over the previous year. Rice (USD 9.65 billion), wheat (USD 2.19 billion), sugar (USD 4.6 billion), and other cereals have achieved record exports (USD 1.08 billion).



Commerce Ministry: Number Of Patent Filings Rises To 66,440 In FY22 :-

According to the commerce and industry ministry the number of patent filings increased from 42,763 in 2014-15 to 66,440 in 2021-22 as a result of the government's efforts to strengthen the country's intellectual property rights (IPR) regime. It also stated that India granted 30,074 patents in 2021-22, up from 5,978 in 2014-15. The time it takes to examine a patent has also been reduced from 72 months in 2016 to 5-23 months now. According to the report, 10,706 patent applications were filed by Indian applicants and 9,090 by non-Indian applicants out of a total of 19,796 patent applications filed.



Bank Of Maharashtra To Divest 4% Stake In ISARC :-

In an announcement Public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra has said that it will sell its entire 4% stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company for nearly Rs 4 crore. According to a regulatory filing, the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has executed a share purchase agreement dated April 6, 2022 for the sale of the entire equity stake of 4% in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (ISARC). The bank's 4% stake, or 40,00,000 equity shares, will be sold at Rs 9.80 per share for a cash consideration of Rs 3.92 crore, according to the statement.



India's Gold Imports Increased By 33.34% To USD 46.14 Billion In 2021-22 :-

According to official data, India's gold imports, which affect the country's current account deficit (CAD), increased by 33.34 percent to USD 46.14 billion during the fiscal year 2021-22 due to increased demand. In 2020-21, gold imports totaled USD 34.62 billion. The increase in gold imports during the previous fiscal year contributed to an increase in the trade deficit to USD 192.41 billion, up from USD 102.62 billion in 2020-21. After China, India is the world's second-largest gold consumer. The jewellery industry is a major driver of imports.



India's Retail Inflation Rose To 6.95% In March :-

Annual retail inflation in India reached a 17-month high in March, while factory output fell sequentially in February, complicating policy decisions for the central bank. According to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), retail inflation rose to 6.95

percent in March from a year ago, remaining above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance limit for the third month in a row. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), on the other hand, increased 1.7% year on year in February but contracted 4.7% month on month, indicating that the economic recovery has yet to gain traction.



WPI Based Inflation In March Rose To 14.55% :-

The March wholesale price index-based inflation rate in India increased to 14.55 percent due to higher edible oil prices and higher power prices. WPI inflation last month was 13.11 percent due to higher crude oil and non-food prices, while crude petroleum increased by 55.17 percent. According to data released by the industry department, the high rate of inflation in March 2022 was primarily caused by a rise in the prices of crude petroleum and natural gas, mineral oils, and basic metals as a result of the disruption in the global supply chain caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.



Reserve Bank of India capped lending limits of NBFCs :-

Aside from disclosures in financial statements, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a slew of rules for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) relating to large exposures, lending to directors, and loans to the real estate sector. The regulations are part of the scale-

based regulation (SBR) that was announced in October 2021. They will take effect on October 1, 2022. In October 2021, the banking regulator separated NBFCs into four layers: base, middle, upper, and top. The RBI stated in a notification that the exposure of NBFCs in the upper layer to any entity must not exceed 20% of its capital base at all times.

9: International



Robert Abela Has Been Re-elected As Prime Minister Of Malta :-

Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela was re-elected after his Labour Party won a landslide victory in elections, giving them a third term in power. Despite low turnout and the legacy of scandal surrounding the murder of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, his party received 55.11 percent of the vote, a larger victory than in 2017 or 2013. Labour won a nearly 40,000-vote majority over its Nationalist Party opponents, a huge margin in the tiny EU state with only 355,000 registered voters.



Living Root Bridges Of Meghalaya Included Tentative List Of World Heritage Sites :-

The famous living root bridges of Meghalaya state have been tentatively added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. According to reports, the Meghalaya Chief Minister proposed UNESCO recognition of the bridges on January 21, 2022, when the hill state celebrated its 50th anniversary. These bridges improve connectivity in more than 75 remote villages in and around the world's wettest region. These simple suspension bridges are formed as the tree shapes itself to form living plant roots across a stream or river.



Viktor Orbán wins Fourth Term as Prime Minister of Hungary :-

After a campaign overshadowed by the war in neighbouring Ukraine, nationalist Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Fidesz party won a fourth term in office by a much larger margin than pre-election polls had suggested. The 58-year-old, who is already the EU's longest-serving leader, was challenged by six united opposition parties seeking to reverse the "illiberal" revolution pursued by Orbán's Fidesz party during its 12 years in power. However, with 94 percent of votes counted, Fidesz had 53 percent of the vote, compared to 35 percent for the opposition coalition, according to national election office results.



Imran Khan nominates Pakistan's former chief justice Gulzar Ahmed as caretaker PM :-

Former Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed has been proposed as the caretaker Prime Minister by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. This comes after Pakistan

President Alvi issued an order de-notifying Imran Khan as the country's prime minister with immediate effect. However, President Alvi later issued another order, instructing Imran Khan to serve as interim prime minister until a "caretaker prime minister" is appointed in accordance with Article 224 A of Pakistan's constitution.



WHO suspends UN supply of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine for Covid-19 :-

The World Health Organization has issued a statement saying that it is suspending the supply of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin through UN agencies, a setback for India's indigenous vaccine against Covid-19. The global health organisation stated that this was done due to manufacturing flaws discovered during an inspection. While suspending Covaxin supply through UN agencies, the WHO noted that data on the vaccine showed it was effective and there were no safety concerns.



Shehbaz Sharif Elected As 23rd Prime Minister Of Pakistan :-

The president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif was elected unopposed as Pakistan's 23rd Prime Minister by the National Assembly on 11 April, following a week-long constitutional crisis that climaxed on 10 April when Imran Khan lost a no-confidence vote. In 2018, Sharif received 174 votes, while Khan received 176 votes. Former Prime Minister Khan and the majority of his party's lawmakers resigned their seats in the assembly immediately before voting began. Shehbaz Sharif, 70, is the younger brother of three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was barred from holding public office by the Supreme Court in 2017.



Ecuador Became 1st Country To Give Legal Rights To Wild Animals :-

Ecuador, in South America, has made history by becoming the first country to recognise the legal rights of individual wild animals at a time when the world is battling climate change and animal exploitation. The 7-2 ruling by the country's highest court, handed down last month, is thought to be the first time a court has applied the rights of nature — laws that recognise ecosystems' legal rights to exist and regenerate. The historic decision came as the country's highest court heard the case of Estrellita, a one-month-old woolly monkey who was taken from the wild and raised as a pet but died within a month after being transferred to a zoo.



Australia's Victoria Will Host The 2026 Commonwealth Games :-

In a departure from the traditional single host city model, Victoria will host the Commonwealth Games in 2026, with the majority of events organised by the Australian state's regional centres. The Games will be held in multiple cities and regional hubs in March 2026, including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Gippsland, each with its own athletes' village. The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has announced that the opening ceremony will take place at the iconic 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground.



Israel Successfully Tests 'Iron Beam' New Laser-Based Air Defence System :-

In recent tests, Israel's new laser missile defence system, dubbed 'Iron Beam,' successfully intercepted mortars, rockets, and anti-tank missiles, according to Defense Minister Benny Gantz. According to Gantz the Israeli-made laser system, designed to supplement a series of

aerial defence systems such as Israel's costly Iron Dome, will be operational as soon as possible. Gantz added that the laser systems will be deployed around Israel's borders over the next decade. The tests were conducted in the Negev Desert last month.



India Gets Elected In 4 UN ECOSOC Bodies :-

United Nations Economic and Social Council has elected India to its four major bodies, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations thanked all member states for electing India to four key UN ECOSOC bodies. Ambassador Preeti Saran has also been re-elected to the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Committee. Saran, a senior Indian diplomat, was elected unopposed to the Asia Pacific seat on the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights earlier in December 2018. On January 1, 2019, she began her first four-year term.



Indonesia lifts suspension of agricultural imports from India :-

Indonesia has lifted the suspension on agricultural products from New Delhi with immediate effect, which is a huge relief for Indian exporters. Consignments from India already on their way to Indonesia can be accompanied by a Certificate of Analysis (COA) issued on March 24 or earlier. Indian agricultural imports were halted in late March after Indonesian authorities barred certification agencies based in India from receiving approval. These agencies or labs issued certificates that are required for agricultural products to be exported to Indonesia, and their licence was valid until March 25.



Russian Vessel Moskva Has Sunk As A Result Of A 'Neptune Missile Strike' By Ukraine :-

Russia's Black Sea Fleet's Moskva, a powerful war machine used to launch precision cruise missiles deep inside Ukraine. Despite Russia's claims that the fire was accidental, US officials confirmed that two Ukrainian Neptune missiles struck the ship, killing an unknown number of sailors and sending it and its arsenal to the bottom of the Black Sea. The sinking of the Moskva was a devastating blow to the Russian fleet and a dramatic demonstration of today's warfare, in which missiles fired from shore can destroy even the largest and most powerful ships.



Russia successfully test-fires Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile :-

Russia announced the successful test launch of a Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile at a time when tensions between Moscow and the West have risen dramatically as a result of the Ukraine attack. Following the test, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that the new missile complex has "the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is able to overcome all modern means of anti-missile defense." Sarmat will boost Russia's combat capability, protect the country from external threats, and "make those who, in the heat of frenzied and aggressive rhetoric, try to threaten our country think," he said in an online meeting with top defence officials.



Patrick Achi Re-Appointed As Prime Minister Of Ivory Coast :-

Ivory Coast Prime Minister Patrick Achi has been reappointed, just a week after resigning, according to

Senate President Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio. The reappointment of the prime minister comes just hours after Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara announced the appointment of Tiemoko Meyliet Kone, governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), as his vice president. Achi, 66, took office as Prime Minister in March of last year. He was the West African state's third prime minister in the last three years, following Amadou Gon Coulibaly and Hamed Bakayoko, who died less than eight months apart in 2020 and 2021.



India To Give Additional \$500 Million Fuel Aid To Sri Lanka :-

The troubled island nation's foreign minister told reporters that India will provide an additional \$500 million in financial assistance to purchase fuel, and that Bangladesh was willing to postpone \$450 million in swap repayments to ease Colombo's burden. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister GL Peiris has stated that India will provide an additional \$500 million in financial assistance to the crisis-hit island nation in order to purchase fuel. He also stated that Bangladesh was willing to postpone \$450 million in swap repayments in order to alleviate Colombo's burden. He said "Assistance by the IMF will take about six months to come to us and it will come in tranches. During the intervening period, we need to find funds to keep our people supplied with essentials."



World's largest exporter Indonesia bans palm oil exports from April 28 :-

Indonesia, the world's largest producer of palm oil, has announced plans to ban exports of the most widely used vegetable oil, in a surprise move that could exacerbate already-rising global food inflation. The suspension of shipments of the cooking oil and its raw material, which are widely used in products ranging from cakes to cosmetics, could raise costs for packaged food producers around the world and force governments to choose between using vegetable oils in food and biofuel. More than half of the world's palm oil supply comes from Indonesia. Indonesian President Joko Widodo said in a video broadcast that he wanted to ensure the availability of food products at home after global food inflation reached a record high following Russia's invasion of major crop producer Ukraine.



Elon Musk To Acquire Twitter In \$44 Billion :-

Elon Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur, agreed to buy Twitter Inc for \$44 billion in cash, using one of the largest

leveraged buyout transactions in history to take private a 16-year-old social networking platform that has become a hub of public discourse and a flashpoint in the debate over online free speech. Investors will receive \$54.2 for each Twitter share they own, the company said in a statement. The price is 38% more than the stock's close on April 1, the last business day before Musk disclosed a significant stake in the company, sparking a share rally. The all-cash deal is expected to be completed later this year. According to the statement, Musk has secured \$25.5 billion in debt and margin loan financing and will contribute approximately \$21 billion in equity to fund the transaction.



UNESCO's World Book Capital 2022: Guadalajara, Mexico :-

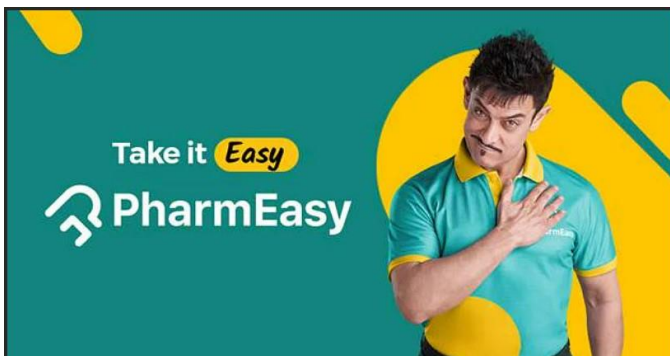
To promote reading, publishing, and copyright the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organises World Book Day, also known as World Book and Copyright Day. On April 23, the world celebrates World Book Day, which includes India. During World Book Day, UNESCO chooses a World Book Capital for a year. The chosen capital city organises a variety of activities to celebrate and promote reading. Guadalajara, Mexico has been named World Book Capital for 2022. As part of the World Book Day event, the UN organisation shared information about the World Digital Library on social media, providing free access to thousands of books, documents, and photos from around the world.

10: Miscellaneous



India and the WHO have agreed to establish a global traditional medicine centre in Jamnagar :-

In Jamnagar, Gujarat, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Indian government signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. The World Health Organization (WHO) released a statement announcing the development. On April 21, the Centre will be formally inaugurated. According to WHO, the global knowledge centre for traditional medicine, which is supported by a USD 250 million investment from the Indian government, aims to harness the potential of traditional medicine from around the world through modern science and technology to improve people's and the planet's health. Approximately 80% of the world's population is thought to practise traditional medicine.



PharmEasy Appoints Amir Khan Brand Ambassador :-

With Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan serving as its brand ambassador PharmEasy, a consumer healthcare "super app," has launched its latest campaign. API Holdings Limited is in charge of the PharmEasy brand. According to the consumer healthcare, this association will help to build the brand and create consumer awareness for healthcare in India. Aamir Khan will be seen endorsing the PharmEasy brand across multiple platforms.



President Ram Nath Kovind Visits In Amsterdam And Names A New Yellow Tulip Variety 'Maitri' :-

Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India, arrived in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on a three-day official visit with his wife and First Lady, Savita Kovind. This is the first Presidential visit to the Netherlands in 34 years, following President Venkataraman's visit in 1988. The State visit is also significant because the two countries are commemorating 75 years of diplomatic relations. During his visit, President Kovind went to Keukenhof, which is one of the world's largest flower gardens and is also known as the Garden of Europe. An important flower naming ceremony took place at Keukenhof, which has become a significant landmark in India-Netherlands

friendship. A yellow colour newly bred double tulip has been named 'Maitri' by President Kovind to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India-Netherlands diplomatic relations.



PM Mudra Yojana Celebrates The Completion Of 7 Years :-

According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, more than 51% of total loans sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana went to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Class categories. Mrs. Sitharaman stated on the 7th anniversary of the Mudra Yojana that the Scheme represents social justice in action and embodies the true spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to her, the Scheme has aided in the creation of an enabling environment, particularly for small businesses, as well as in the generation of large-scale employment opportunities at the grassroots level.



Ravichandran Ashwin Becomes 1st Player To Get Retired Out In IPL History :-

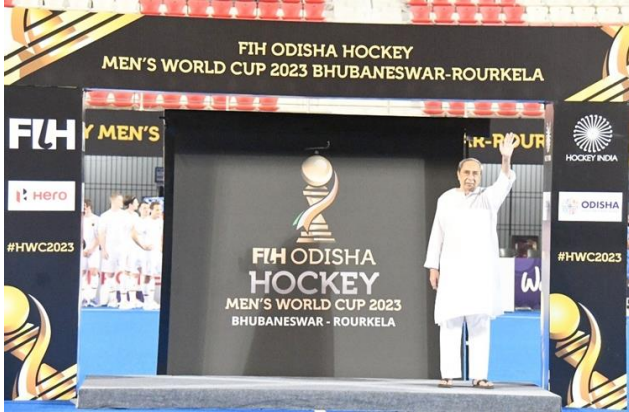
On April 10 Ravichandran Ashwin became the first player in Indian Premier League (IPL) history to retire during the match between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG). At the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, Ashwin batted at number 6 and scored 28 runs off 23 balls to help RR stabilise after they were struggling at 67/4 in 9.5 overs. Toward the end of the innings, the all-rounder abruptly decided to walk out and retire out so that batter Riyan Parag could bat and help RR score in the final overs. After Ashwin left, Parag joined Shimron Hetmyer, and the duo helped Rajasthan Royals score 165.



IISc Conducted Study, Found Microplastics In Cauvery River :-

According to a new study Pollutants such as microplastics may be causing growth defects in fish, including skeletal deformities, in the Cauvery river. The study was led by Upendra Nongthomba, professor in the department of Molecular Reproduction, Development, and Genetics (MRDG) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and was published in the journal Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety. Microplastics can be found in a variety of household and industrial products, and

cyclohexyl-containing chemicals, such as cyclohexyl isocyanate, are widely used in agriculture and the pharmaceutical industry.



Odisha CM Unveils Logo Of 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup :-

At the Kalinga Hockey Stadium, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled the official logo of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023. The quadrennial tournament is set to take place from January 13 to January 29, 2023. After a successful event in 2018, Hockey India and its official partner Odisha will host the marquee event for the second time in the country. "It's an honour and delight for me to unveil the logo of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup for the second consecutive time," expressed Naveen Patnaik after unveiling the official logo.



All India Radio launched 'Abhyaas' programme for competitive exams :-

For competitive exam preparation All India Radio (AIR) launched a weekly interactive programme that will be held each Saturday. The program's goal is to help students and job seekers prepare for various topics that will help them pass various exams. The 30-minute Hindi programme, titled 'Abhyaas,' which means 'practise' in English, will air every week from 9:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on 100.1 FM GOLD. On April 2, the first episode aired.



New Zealand Pacer Hamish Bennett Announced Retirement From All Forms Of Cricket :-

Hamish Bennett, a New Zealand pacer, has announced that the 2021/22 season will be the last of his 17-year old career. The 35-year-old has played for New Zealand's U-19 team, senior men's team, and domestic clubs Wellington and Canterbury. Bennett made his New Zealand debut in an ODI against Bangladesh in 2010 and his only Test appearance a month later against India in Ahmedabad. Bennett has played 265 domestic games for Canterbury and Wellington, taking 489 wickets across all formats and establishing himself as one of the country's most dependable pace bowlers.



Karnataka Named Robin Uthappa As Brand Ambassador For Brain Health Initiative :-

To raise awareness about mental health issues, the Health Department has appointed cricketer Robin Uthappa as the ambassador for brain health and mental health. Karnataka's brain health initiative is being carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, NITI Aayog, and Nimhans. Mental and brain health issues are increasingly being brought to the attention of health care providers. 40% to 60% of illnesses can be controlled if appropriate treatment is provided. Sixty percent to ninety percent of those suffering from neurological conditions do not seek treatment at the appropriate time. Currently, there is a lack of awareness about these issues.



West Indies All-Rounder Kieron Pollard Announces Retirement :-

Kieron Pollard, the West Indies all-rounder, announced his retirement from international cricket on social media. Pollard, who captained the West Indies' limited-overs teams, played 123 ODIs and 101 T20Is. He has been a key member of the Mumbai Indians team in the Indian Premier League for several years and was retained by the team prior to the mega auction in February of this year. He was a member of the West Indies team that won the ICC WT20 in 2012, but he missed out on his second T20 World Cup title in 2016 due to injury. The 34-year-old Pollard, who made his ODI debut in 2007, played his final series against India.

11: National



Anurag Thakur Launches Logo, Mascot Jersey & Anthem Of Khelo India University Games 2021 :-

Shri TC Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, and other dignitaries unveiled the logo, jersey, mascot, and anthem for the Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021) at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium. The event, which was postponed last year due to the ongoing Covid crisis, will be the second edition of KIUG, following Odisha's hosting of the Khelo India University Games in

2020. Karnataka, the host state, also launched a Khelo India App for live updates on the Games. During his speech, Karnataka Governor Shri TC Gehlot thanked the central government for choosing Karnataka to host the second phase of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG).



Court has power to review govt's decision on remission: SC :-

The Supreme Court stated that it has the authority to review the government's decision on whether to accept or reject remission and to direct it to reconsider its decision. While the government has the discretion to suspend or commute the sentence, the executive power cannot be exercised arbitrarily, according to a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Aniruddha Bose. It stated that the executive's prerogative is subject to the rule of law and fairness in state action, as embodied in Article 14 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court stated that, while it can review the government's decision to determine whether it was arbitrary, it cannot usurp the government's power and grant remission itself.



Chandigarh to go by Central services rules :-

Dharam Pal, the UT adviser, has formed a committee for the implementation of the central services rules in Chandigarh, which will be led by the UT home secretary. The committee, which includes senior officials from the finance and personnel departments, will look into the changes that need to be made to pay scales, allowances, and other service conditions in order to bring administration employees on par with those in the Union government. On March 29, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs issued the Chandigarh Employees (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2022, which replaced the Punjab service rules with the central services rules effective April 1.



NCW Launches Anti-Human Trafficking Cell :-

To improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking, raising awareness among women and girls, capacity building and training of anti-trafficking units and to increase the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies the National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched an anti-human trafficking cell. The Cell, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of

Women and Child Development, was established with the goal of raising awareness among law enforcement officials and facilitating capacity building.



AAI Launches 'AVSAR' Scheme To Provide Platform To SHGs :-

In keeping with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of encouraging the talent of women, artisans, and craftsmen and providing them with the right opportunities, the Airport Authority of India (AAI) has taken the initiative of allocating space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing self-made products from their region. AAI's "AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region) initiative has provided an opportunity to assist the indigent in mobilising their households into functionally effective self-earned groups for self-reliance and self-dependence.



Cabinet Gives Approval To Extension Of AIM Till March Next Year :-

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has agreed to extend the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) until March 2023. The AIM will work on its

intended goal of creating a culture of innovation and an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country. This will be done by AIM through its various programmes and under intended targets that will be achieved by AIM are: establishing 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), establishing 101 Atal Incubation Centres, establishing 50 Atal Community Innovation Centres, and supporting 200 start-ups via the Atal New India Challenges.



South-Central Railway Launches 'One Station One Product' Initiative :-

At 6 major stations in all its six divisions the South-Central Railway (SCR) has launched the "One station One Product" initiative. Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager of SCR, has inaugurated stalls under the new initiative at Secunderabad Station. The stalls have also been set up in Kacheguda, near the railway stations of Vijayawada, Guntur, and Aurangabad. The new initiative was announced by the government in the General Budget 2022-23 and is already being tested in Tirupati. Speaking at the event, Mr Jain stated that railway stations are ideal for promoting indigenous and local products, and that the initiative aims to make railway stations a sales and promotional hub for them.



Govt Launched The 'Broadcast Seva' Platform To Increase Transparency :-

The information and broadcasting ministry has launched the 'Broadcast Seva' portal to help broadcasters apply for and process licences, permissions, and registrations. Anurag Thakur, Union I&B minister, said the revamped portal will bring "transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the ecosystem." Thakur also stated that the government's Digital India initiative is New India's biggest success story. The online platform, he added, will contribute to the government's commitment to making doing business in the broadcasting sector easier.



Union Government Crosses Its Asset Monetization Target For FY22 :-

During FY22, the Centre completed asset monetisation worth Rs 96,000 crore, exceeding the target of Rs 88,000 crore. According to an official, it has set a target of Rs 1.62 trillion for FY23 and already has a pipeline of assets worth Rs 1.6 trillion in advanced stages of

implementation. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviewed the progress of several ministries on April 12 and urged departments to meet the targets set for them, according to an official. The NITI Aayog is preparing a pipeline of assets to be monetised this year in consultation with ministries.



(E-NAM) National Agriculture Market Completed 6 Years :-

This year marks the sixth anniversary of the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). e-NAM is a pan-India electronic trading portal that connects the existing APMC mandis to form a unified national agricultural market. The Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium is implementing e-NAM, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched on April 14th, 2016. The Central Government pays for it entirely. The goal of e-NAM was to improve agricultural marketing uniformity by streamlining procedures across linked marketplaces, eliminating information asymmetry between buyers and sellers, and encouraging real-time price discovery based on actual demand and supply.



NITI Aayog to launch National Data and Analytics Platform:-

In May, the NITI Aayog intends to launch a National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) to provide government data in a user-friendly format and to promote data-driven decision making and research. The platform, which was conceived in 2020, aims to standardise data across government sources and provide flexible analytics that allow users to easily analyse information using multiple datasets. At the time of its launch, the portal will contain 200 datasets from more than 46 ministries. In the future, new datasets will be added up to the village level.



Government Officials To Be Trained In National Cyber Exercise :-

The National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise was launched by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen (Retd) Rajesh Pant, and DRDO Secretary Satheesh Reddy. In his speech, Doval drew attention to the government's launch of a large number of digital services, emphasising the importance of protecting cyberspace. According to an official news release, the hybrid exercise will last 10 days and will train senior management and technical personnel from government organisations and agencies on current cyber threats, as well as how to handle cyber incidents and respond to them. The programme is run by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in collaboration with the Data Security Council of India (DSCI).



Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centre Scheme Marked 4th Year Anniversary :-

With the goal of providing health care to all Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched on 14th April, 2018, has completed its fourth year anniversary on 14th April, 2022. In February 2018, the Government of India announced the establishment of 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat- Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) to translate the intent of the National Health Policy 2017 to achieve Universal Health Coverage into budgetary commitment. Existing Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Care Centers in rural and urban areas are being transformed to provide comprehensive primary health care to all citizens at no cost and closer to their homes.



Centre issues advisory against broadcasting offensive, misleading content :-

"Scandalous" and "provocative" headlines, anchors making "fabricated and hyperbolic statements," and showing footage of a specific community during coverage of the Ukraine-Russia war and communal incident in North-West Delhi prompted the government to "advise" private TV channels not to use "unauthentic, misleading, sensationalised, and using socially unacceptable language and remarks." The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued the advisory after

authorities discovered a violation of the The Cable Television (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Programme Code by the TV channel. It specifically mentioned the coverage of the Ukraine-Russia conflict and the violence in Jahangirpuri, North-West Delhi. The advisory chastised "many of the journalists and news anchors," accusing them of making "fabricated and hyperbolic statements intended to incite" the audience.

12: Obituaries



Belgian Footballer Miguel Van Damme Passes Away :-

Miguel Van Damme, a Belgian footballer, died at the age of 28 after a long battle with leukaemia. Van Damme was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2016 and underwent multiple cancer treatments over the next five years. He successfully treated the infection twice before announcing in September 2020 that it had returned for the third time and was now incurable.



Former CM Of Sikkim B.B. Gurung Passes Away :-

Former Sikkim Chief Minister BB Gurung died of old age-related ailments, according to his family. Gurung was elected to the first state assembly as a Sikkim National Congress candidate in 1977, following the merger of Sikkim with India in 1975. He was also elected speaker of the first assembly, a position he held until 1979. In the midst of political unrest, Gurung was sworn in as the state's third chief minister in May 1984.



Pulitzer Prize Winning American Poet Richard Howard Passes Away :-

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet celebrated for his exuberant monologues of historical figures and a prolific translator Richard Howard who helped introduce readers to a wide range of French literature, has died at age 92. Howard's poetry, essays, and translations totaled well over 200 books over a 50-year period, establishing him as an

important literary creator, commentator, and interpreter. He won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1970 for "Untitled Subjects," and he was a National Book Award finalist in 2008 for "Without Saying."



Actor-Screenwriter Shiv Kumar Subramaniam Passes Away :-

Shiv Kumar Subramaniam, known for films such as 2 States, Meenakshi Sunderashwar, and Hichki, died on April 11 in Mumbai. Aside from acting, he also wrote screenplays for films such as Parinda, 1942: A Love Story, and Hazaro Khwaishein Aisi. Shiv was also nominated for Best Screenplay for Parinda and Best Story for Hazaron Khwaishein Aisi by Filmfare. He also rose to prominence for his performance as the lead in the TV show Mukti Bandhan.



Producer-actor Manju Singh dies at 73 :-

Manju Singh, a well-known producer-actor best known for shows such as Swaraj, Ek Kahani, and Show Time, died

after suffering a stroke. She was 73 years old. Singh, affectionately known as didi by her industry colleagues, was praised for highlighting social and cultural issues as a producer on shows such as Adhikar and Samyaktva: True Insight, among others. She also played Ratna, the sister of Amol Palekar's Ramprasad Dashrathprasad Sharma, in filmmaker Hrishikesh Mukherjee's 1979 classic film Gol Maal.



Noted Odia musician Profulla Kar passed away :-

Profulla Kar, an eminent Odia musician and Padma Shri awardee, died. He was 83 years old. Kar was a master musician, singer, lyricist, writer, and columnist who was born in 1939. In 2015, he was awarded the Padma Shri for his contributions to the fields of art and music. Kar composed music for over 70 Odia films and provided voiceovers for numerous films, albums, and radio shows. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Odisha Governor Geneshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharemndra Pradhan, and many other dignitaries expressed their condolences on his death.



Prominent film producer Narayan Das Narang passed away :-

Narayan Das Narang, a prominent film personality, film producer, and president of the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce, died in Hyderabad after a long illness. He was 76 years old. Narang was born on July 27, 1946, and was also the chairman of the Asian group of companies. As a producer, some of his well-known films include Love Story, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, and Lakshya, among others. He was working on several other projects at the time, including Sekhar Kammula's D 46 with Dhanush, Nagarjuna's The Ghost, and Sivakarthikeyan's film with KV Anudeep.



Veteran director T Rama Rao passes away at 83 :-

Tatineni Rama Rao (T Rama Rao), a well-known director and producer, died on April 20, 2022, in Chennai. He was admitted to a private hospital for a medical condition related to his age. He was 83 years old at the time. Rama Rao's family members issued a statement announcing his death. T Rama Rao collaborated with a number of leading actors from the Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi film industries. He collaborated with many top Indian stars, including Amitabh Bachchan, Sridevi, NTR, and ANR. Among his many films are Navarathri, Bramachari, Illalu, Pandani Jeevitham, Andhaa Kanoon, Nache Mayuri, and Muqabla. In addition to directing, he also produced Tamil films through his company, Sri Lakshmi Productions.



Sanmar Group's Chairman N Sankar passes away :-

After a brief illness N Sankar (76), Chairman of the 12,500 crore Sanmar Group headquartered in Chennai, passed away. Sankar served on the Board of Directors of Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, a flagship company of the Sanmar Group, from 1975 to 2004, and was its Chairman from July 1998 to July 2004. He was previously Vice Chairman and Managing Director. He was the Chairman of the Sanmar Group Corporate Board, an Advisory Board of the Sanmar Group, from 2004 to August 2020. For the past five decades, N Sankar has played an important role in the company's success.

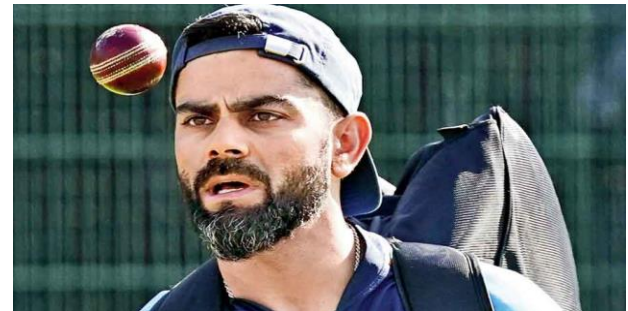
CBIT founder secretary Malakonda Reddy passes away :-

Dr.V Malakonda Reddy, President Emeritus of the Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology Society and Founder Secretary of the Chaitanya Bharathi Institute Educational Society, died. He was 90 years old. Malakonda Reddy, who was born on August 23, 1932 in the Andhra Pradesh district of Prakasam, holds a

Doctorate in Structural Engineering from Edinburgh University in the United Kingdom. Between 1996 and 2004, he was a member of the Executive Council of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in Hyderabad. Malakonda Reddy has diverse experience in many

spheres of Engineering and social activity, with his several years of experience as professor and head of Civil Engineering Department at REC (NIT) Warangal, as well as holding other Administrative Posts at the College with efficiency.

13: Ranks & Reports



Virat Kohli Tops In Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 :-

Cricketer Virat Kohli has been named the most valuable celebrity in India for the fifth year in a row, with a brand valuation of \$185.7 million in 2021, despite stepping down as ODI and T20 captain. This was revealed in Duff & Phelps' Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021. Even after retiring from international cricket, MS Dhoni entered the top-5 club ranking fifth, with a brand value of \$61.2 million in 2021 with 25 brands in his side. Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Salman Khan, Ayushmann Khurrana, and Hrithik Roshan were also among the top ten.

ICRA Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast In FY23 To 7.2% :-

Due to rising commodity prices and supply chain disruptions caused by China's lockdowns and ongoing war, rating agency Icria has lowered India's GDP forecast for fiscal year 2022-23 to 7.2 percent from 8% previously projected. The agency lowered its GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year ending March 31 to 8.5 percent, slightly lower than the National Statistical Office's (NSO) second advance estimate of 8.9 percent, according to a statement. "Higher prices of fuels and edible oil are likely to compress disposable incomes in the mid to lower income segments, constraining the demand revival in the next financial year starting April 1," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.



India Ratings Lowers India's FY23 GDP Growth Forecast To 7-7.2% :-

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has reduced India's GDP growth forecast for fiscal year 2022-23 to 7-7.2 percent from 7.6 percent previously. The rating agency Fitch Group stated that its January 2022 economic growth forecast is unlikely to hold in light of the global geopolitical situation resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war. However, Ind-Ra anticipates that the rise in commodity prices and disruptions in the global supply chain caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict will have an impact on their sentiments, and that this capex may be postponed until more clarity about the conflict emerges.



UP Become India's Top Vegetable Producer :-

After two years Uttar Pradesh has reclaimed its position as the leading producer of vegetables, relegating West Bengal to second place. Andhra Pradesh, on the other hand, continues to be the leading fruit producer. According to data submitted to the Lok Sabha, Uttar Pradesh's vegetable production is expected to be 29.58 million tonnes (mt) in the 2021-22 crop year (July-June), down from 29.16 mt the previous year, while West Bengal's output is expected to fall to 28.23 mt from 30.33 mt. In 2018-19, Uttar Pradesh was ahead of West Bengal in vegetable production by about 0.7 million tonnes.



Chandrapur District Of Maharashtra Records Third Hottest Place In The World :-

With 43.4 degrees Celsius, Chandrapur, known for its hot and humid summers, has become the world's third hottest place. Following the same trend, Akola, another Vidarbha city, was ranked seventh in the world's hottest places, with 43.1 degrees Celsius. Nagpur's maximum temperature is also rising, with the city recording the hottest day of the season at 41.5 degrees Celsius. According to El Dorado Weather, Kayes, Mali, is the hottest place on the planet, with 44.4 degrees Celsius. Segou, Mali, is second on the list, with 43.8 degrees Celsius, and Chandrapur, India, is third on the list.



FICCI Estimate India's GDP Growth Rate For FY23 At 7.4% :-

The most recent round of FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey forecasts annual median GDP growth of 7.4 percent for 2022-23, with minimum and maximum growth estimates of 6.0 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively. For 2022-23, the median growth forecast

for agriculture and related activities is 3.3 percent. The current round of FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey was conducted in March 2022, and it drew responses from leading economists from industry, banking, and financial services. The current conflict is expected to exacerbate the price rise caused by imported commodities. The average wholesale price index-based inflation estimate for the fourth quarter of 2021-22 is 12.6 percent.



India's Unemployment Rate Falls To 7.6% In March From 8.1% In Feb 2022 :-

According to CMIE data, the country's unemployment rate is decreasing as the economy slowly returns to normal. The monthly time series data from the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy revealed that the overall unemployment rate in India was 8.1 percent in February 2022, but fell to 7.6 percent in March. On April 2, the ratio fell to 7.5 percent, with urban unemployment at 8.5 percent and rural unemployment at 7.1 percent. According to Abhirup Sarkar, retired professor of economics at the Indian Statistical Institute, the overall unemployment rate is still high for a "poor" country like India.



India's trade deficit rises 87.5% to \$192.41 billion in FY22 :-

According to government data, India's trade deficit increased 87.5 percent to \$192.41 billion in 2021-22, up from \$102.63 billion the previous year. While total exports increased to a record high of \$417.81 billion last fiscal year, imports also increased to \$610.22 billion, leaving a trade gap of \$192.41 billion. The trade deficit in March 2022 was \$18.69 billion, compared to \$192.41 billion for the entire fiscal year 2021-22. According to the release, India's monthly merchandise exports surpassed \$40 billion for the first time, reaching \$40.38 billion in March 2022, a 14.53 percent increase over the previous month's \$35.26 billion. It was up 87.89% from \$21.49 billion in March 2020.



WHO : 99% world's population breathes poor-quality air :-

According to the United Nations health agency, nearly everyone in the world breathes air that does not meet its air quality standards, and it is calling for more action to reduce the use of fossil fuels, which emit pollutants that cause respiratory and blood-flow problems, as well as millions of preventable deaths each year. Six months after tightening its air quality guidelines, the World Health Organization has issued an update to its air quality database, which draws on data from an increasing number of cities, towns, and villages around the world — now over 6,000 municipalities. According to WHO, 99 percent of the world's population breathes air that exceeds air-quality standards and is frequently laden with particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, enter the veins and arteries, and cause disease.



Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022 List :-

The latest Hurun list of women self-made billionaires (Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022) includes three Indian women: Falguni Nayar of Nykaa, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon, and Radha Vembu of Zoho. Falguni Nayar, founder and CEO of the beauty and lifestyle retail company Nykaa, is one of the top ten wealthiest people in the world, with a fortune of \$7.6 billion. Following the IPO of Nykaa, Nayar surpassed long-time India's number one woman billionaire, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, to become India's richest self-made

woman. She's also ranked first on Hurun's list of the Top 10 New Faces.



ADB Projects India's Economy To Grow By 7.5% In FY23 :-

The Asian Development Bank predicts that South Asian economies will grow by 7% collectively in 2022, with the subregion's largest economy India growing by 7.5% this fiscal year before increasing to 8% the following year. The Manila-based multilateral funding agency said in its flagship Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022 that growth in South Asia will slow to 7% in 2022 before picking up to 7.4% in 2023.



Gujarat Tops NITI Aayog's State Energy And Climate Index :-

Gujarat has topped the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) in the larger states category, with a score of 50.1 points. Kerala is ranked second, and Punjab is ranked third. While Goa topped the list of small states,

it was followed by Tripura and Manipur. The State Energy and Climate Index, according to NITI Aayog, is the first index that aims to track the efforts made by states and UTs in the climate and energy sectors.



UN-FAO: Mumbai And Hyderabad Recognised As '2021 Tree City Of The World' :-

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO) and Arbor Day Foundation have named Mumbai and Hyderabad the '2021 Tree Cities of the World.' The two Indian cities were honoured for their "commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities". While Mumbai appears on the list for the first time, Hyderabad appears for the second year in a row. Arvind Kumar, Special Chief Secretary of Urban Development in Hyderabad, tweeted that it was a "matter of immense pride."



World Bank Slashes India's GDP Growth Forecast For FY22-23 To 8 Percent :-

The World Bank has reduced India's GDP forecast for fiscal year 2022-23, citing the impact of the Russia-Ukraine crisis. In its report titled 'Reshaping Norms: A New Way Forward,' which focuses on the South Asian economy, the international lender reduced its growth forecast for India to 8% from 8.7% for the current fiscal year. It also reduced the growth forecast for South Asia, excluding Afghanistan, by a full percentage point to 6.6%. The World Bank forecasted 8.7 percent growth in India's economy in FY23 in its January growth outlook.



United Nations report suggested COVID plunged 77 million into poverty prior Ukraine war :-

According to a UN report, the pandemic pushed 77 million more people into extreme poverty last year, and many developing countries are unable to recover due to the crippling cost of debt repayments – and that was before the war in Ukraine. According to the report, rich countries could help their economies recover from pandemic slumps by borrowing record amounts at ultra-low interest rates. However, the poorest countries spent billions of dollars servicing their debts and faced much higher borrowing costs, preventing them from investing in education and health care, environmental protection, and inequality reduction.



World Bank Report States Extreme Poverty In India Decline By 12.3% :-

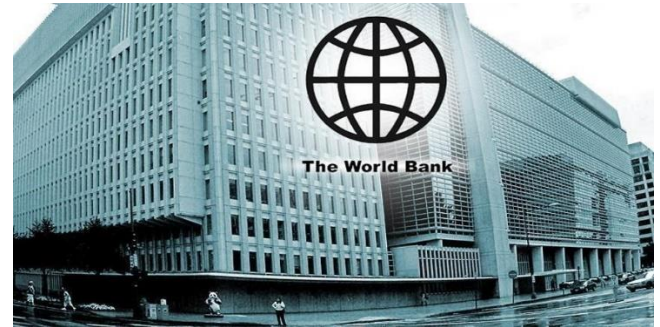
In 2019, India's poverty rate is 12.3 percentage points lower than it was in 2011. From 22.5 percent in 2011 to 10.2 percent in 2019, the poverty headcount rate has decreased. Poverty reduction was greater in rural India than in urban India, according to a World Bank policy research working paper. Between 2011 and 2019, rural poverty fell by 14.7 percent, while urban poverty fell by 7.9 percentage points. Farmers with small landholdings have seen higher income growth, according to the study. Between the two survey rounds in 2013 and 2019, real incomes for farmers with the smallest landholdings increased by 10% in annualised terms, compared to a 2% increase for farmers with the largest landholding.



IMF Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast For FY23 To 8.2% :-

As the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine weighs heavily on prices and disrupts supply chains the Indian economy is expected to grow by 8.2 percent in the current fiscal year (2022-23), significantly slower than the IMF's earlier forecast of 9 percent. The IMF forecasted 6.9 percent growth in India's economy in

2023-24 in its most recent World Economic Outlook (WEO) report. India's latest GDP growth forecast remains higher than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) estimate of 7.2 percent for 2022-23. The central bank had previously reduced its growth forecast from 7.8 percent to 7.2 percent, citing the impact of the Ukraine conflict and the breakdown of supply chains.



World Bank Cuts Global Economy Growth Forecast To 3.2% :-

According to World Bank President David Malpass the World Bank is lowering its global growth forecast for 2022 by nearly a full percentage point, to 3.2 percent from 4.1 percent, due to the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Malpass stated that the most significant component of the bank's growth forecast reduction was a 4.1 percent contraction in the Europe and Central Asia region, which includes Ukraine, Russia, and neighbouring countries. Forecasts for advanced and many developing economies are also being reduced as a result of spikes in food and energy prices caused by war-related supply disruptions, according to Malpass.



Cyrus S. Poonawalla Tops Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022 :-

According to the Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022, Cyrus Poonawalla, the founder of Serum Institute of India, is the richest billionaire in the healthcare sector in 2022. With a net worth of \$26 billion, he outperformed other pharmaceutical company owners around the world. Poonawalla, India's fourth richest man, increased his fortune by 41% in a year to \$26 billion, owing to widespread use of the Serum Institute's Covid-19 vaccines. Poonawalla's net worth was \$8.2 billion in 2020, up \$17.8 billion in the previous two years.



Wisden Almanack Named Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah Amongst "Five Cricketers Of The Year" :-

Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year include Indian men's team captain Rohit Sharma and star pacer Jasprit Bumrah. The pair led the bowling and batting averages during last year's tour of England, which was cut short one game due to a COVID scare and will be completed with a one-off Test in July. Apart from them, Ollie Robinson, Devon Conway, and Dane Van Niekerk were named Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year, with South Africa's Lizelle Lee emerging as the world's leading women's cricketer. Joe Root, the former England captain, has been named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World in 2022, just days after stepping down as Test captain.

14: Schemes & Committees



Cabinet Approved \$808 Million Programme To Improve And Accelerate The Performance Of MSME :-

The union cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved USD 808 million (6,062.45 crore) for a new World Bank-assisted scheme titled "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance" (RAMP). The new scheme is set to begin in the fiscal year 2022-23. The

World Bank will lend \$3,750 crore (\$ 500 million) of the total amount, while the government of India will fund the remaining \$2,312.45 crore (\$ 308 million). The World Bank-assisted programme supports the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises' (MoMSME) Covid-19 Resilience and Recovery Interventions.



Karnataka Government

The Government Of Karnataka Has Introduced The Vinaya Samarasya Initiative :-

The Karnataka government plans to launch Vinaya Samarasya, an awareness campaign to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state. Responding during budget debate, Social Welfare Minister Kota Shrinivasa Poojari cited a September 2021 incident in which a Dalit family was fined Rs 25,000 after their two-year-old toddler Vinay entered the temple premises at Miyapur village in Kushtagi taluk. Various segments of society condemned the incident. "In the name of Vinay, the State government is initiating Vinaya Samarasya, an awareness programme which will be launched across the state at the panchayat level" he said.



Haryana Govt Launched Crop Insurance Portal Of 'Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana' :-

Mukhyamantri Horticulture Insurance Scheme has been finally officially announced by the Haryana government. On September 22, 2021, the scheme was approved. Haryana Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana was approved at a Haryana Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister ML Khattar. The government will compensate farmers growing horticulture crops who have lost their crops due to natural disasters or adverse weather conditions under this scheme. The yojana will cover 21 vegetable, fruit, and spice crops, according to the announcement.



Maharashtra Launches Scheme To Offer Personal Loans For Prisoners :-

Prisoners in Maharashtra can now get loans without putting up any collateral. The scheme, which aims to reform inmates, will begin as a pilot project at the Yerawada Central Jail in Pune. Under the scheme, the Maharashtra cooperative bank will make loans to prisoners of up to Rs 50,000 at a 7% interest rate. The programme was approved at a meeting presided over by state Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil, and an order was also issued in this regard. Loans will be provided without any guarantee, but the prisoners will have to submit records of income while working in prison.



Delhi Government Launched Scheme To Set Up 'Hobby Hubs' In Government Schools :-

During the new academic session, a project to establish 'Hobby Hubs' in government schools in Delhi with after-school dance, music, arts, and crafts activities is in the works. This project will only be implemented in single

shift government schools during the 2022-2023 academic year. The goal is to maximise the use of school infrastructure and to use it after school hours to promote these extracurricular activities. Private academies, individuals, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be enlisted to provide free training in fields chosen by the schools. They will also be allowed to train and charge private students during these sessions, but government school students must make up 50% of the total students enrolled, and no student from the concerned school will be denied admission to hobby classes held at their own school.



Andhra Pradesh gets 13 new districts :-

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, digitally inaugurated 13 new districts in the state at Guntur. The new districts were created by dividing the existing 13 districts, bringing the total number of districts in the state to 26. The new districts were inaugurated via video conferencing organised at his office camp in Tadepalli, Guntur district. The digital inauguration ceremony was attended by officials from all other districts.



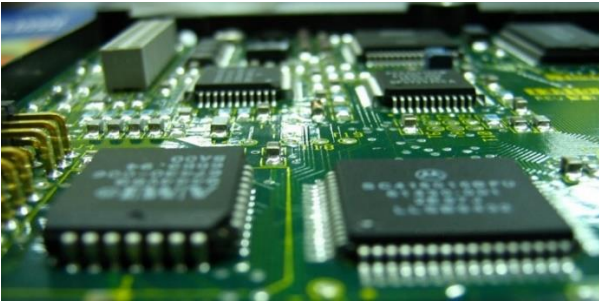
The Environment Minister Announces The Launch Of The 'Prakriti' Green Initiative :-

On March 5th, 2022, Union Minister of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav launched the awareness mascot 'Prakriti' as well as other green initiatives for effective plastic waste management. The mascot 'Prakriti' was created to raise public awareness about how small changes in our lifestyle can have a big impact on environmental sustainability. It also teaches about the various efforts and initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.



CM Of Uttar Pradesh Has Launched The 'School Chalo Abhiyan' Initiative :-

Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, has launched the 'School Chalo Abhiyan,' with the goal of ensuring 100% enrollment in primary and upper primary schools across the state. The campaign is being launched two years after the COVID-19 pandemic, which has severely impacted students' studies. The 'School Chalo Abhiyan' campaign was launched by the Uttar Pradesh government to increase student enrollment in primary and upper primary schools across the state and work toward their holistic development. It also aims to improve basic education for children and increase literacy rates in various regions of the state, particularly those where primary education lags behind.



Government Establishes A Semicon India Advisory Committee :-

According to an official release, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has announced the formation of a 17-member advisory committee to steer and guide the government's Rs 76,000 crore semiconductor mission. The committee will be chaired by the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and vice-chaired by the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar. Members of the committee will include Niti Aayog member V K Saraswat, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, and secretaries from the ministries of external affairs, expenditure, economic affairs, and promotion of industry and internal trade, in that order.



'One Health' Pilot Project Launched By Department Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying :-

The Government of India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has launched a pilot project in the state of Uttarakhand to implement the One

Health Framework through the One Health Support Unit. The Unit's main goal is to create a national One Health roadmap based on the lessons learned from the pilot project implementation. Based on the recommendations of the PSC, state and district level one health committees must be formed, involving competent authorities from the ministries of health, animal husbandry, and the environment. Some of the key activities to be undertaken as part of the pilot project include institutionalizing the mechanism for data collection on disease outbreaks, prevalence, management, and development of targeted surveillance plan, integrating network of laboratories, developing and implementing communication strategy across sectors and integration of the data with the digital architecture of the National Digital Livestock Mission.



UGC Gives Approval For Establishment Of Bhima Bhoi Chair At DU, GGV :-

The University Grants Commission has approved the establishment of the Bhima Bhoi Chair at Delhi University and the Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. The UGC stated in separate letters to the two central universities that the varsities may create the Chair by utilising already available vacant positions, and that other recurring expenditure may be charged to funds already released to them. Bhima Bhoi was an Odisha saint, poet, and philosopher. He fought against the caste system in Hinduism.



Two Separate Sebi Panels To Review Ownership Norms Of MFs, Trustees :-

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has formed two expert groups to investigate the roles, eligibility criteria, and functions of sponsors and trustees at asset management firms (AMCs). A sponsor, similar to a promoter, provides capital for the establishment of an AMC, whereas a trustee serves as a supervisor and is responsible for protecting the interests of investors. Sebi stated in a release that an alternative set of eligibility requirements can be introduced to allow new players who would otherwise be ineligible to act as a sponsor. Sebi has hinted that it is considering allowing private equity (PE) firms to establish AMCs.



'SVANidhi Se Samridhhi' Program Launched in Additional 126 Cities :-

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has expanded the 'SVANidhi se Samridhhi' programme to 126 cities in 14 states/UTs. In 2020-21 despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was enormously successful in providing social security benefits to lakhs of street vendors and their families, thereby protecting them from the risks and vulnerabilities of life and livelihood. This welfare programme covers lakhs of street vendors and their families, connecting them to the current welfare programmes of the Government of India so that they can receive social security benefits as well as holistic development.



Supreme Court Reconstitutes Expert Committee For Delhi-Dehradun Expressway Project :-

The oversight committee for the Delhi-Dehradun expressway project has been reconstituted by the Supreme Court (SC). Previously, the committee was made up of 12 experts appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The Court appointed a new chairman and two new members to the committee. The expert committee will now be led by CP Goyal, the Director-General of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, who was previously led by Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand. Anil Prakash Joshi, founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization, and environmentalist Vijay Dhasmana have joined the committee as new members.



Insurance Scheme – PMGKP For Health Workers Fighting COVID-19 Extended :-

For a further period of 180 days from 19th April, 2022 insurance scheme for Health Care Workers Fighting COVID-19 the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP),' has been extended. It was decided to extend the policy in order to continue providing a safety net to the dependents of health workers assigned to care for COVID-19 patients. The PMGKP was launched on March 30, 2020, to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs. 50 lakh to 22.12 lakh health care providers, including community health workers and private health workers, who may have had direct contact with and cared for COVID-19 patients and may be affected by this.



SEBI Reconstituted Its Advisory Committee For Leveraging Regulatory And Technology Solutions :-

Sebi has reconstituted its advisory committee, which provides advice on improving the regulator's technological capabilities and investigating appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market

anomalies. Sunil Bajpai, former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), will now lead the Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS). The seven-member committee, which was established by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in December 2021, was previously chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch, the regulator's current chief.



PM Modi Inaugurated Development Projects Worth Rs 22,000 Crores In Dahod, Gujarat :-

At a special function held in Dahod, Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various development projects worth 22,000 crore rupees. This includes a project to build 9,000 HP electric locomotives at the Railway Production Unit in Dahod. The project will cost around 20,000 crore rupees to complete. The Dahod workshop, which was founded in 1926 for the periodic overhaul of steam locomotives, will be upgraded to an electric locomotive manufacturing unit with infrastructure improvements. Over 10,000 people will be employed directly or indirectly as a result of this project. Benefits worth 120 crore rupees have been provided to 10,000 tribals in Panchmahal and Dahod districts under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.



'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign :-

On April 25 the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign. The campaign, which ended on April

30th, was organised in collaboration with various other Ministries and Departments as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.' The Department of Agriculture Research and Education had organised a Krishi Mela and a field exhibition on natural farming at each Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar kicked off a country-wide crop insurance workshop organised by the common service centre (CSC). The campaign included a National Atma Nirbhar Bharat Conclave of 75 selected farmers and entrepreneurs. Agricultural development milestones in the 75th year of Indian independence, such as the Green Revolution and self-sufficiency in food grain production, will be highlighted during the campaign.

15: Science & Technology



West Bengal Governor Unveiled PARAM Shakti, A Petascale Supercomputer At IIT Kharagpur :-

At IIT Kharagpur the Governor of West Bengal, Jagdeep Dhankhar, dedicated to the nation a Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST). As it provides large-scale computing power to the user community of IIT Kharagpur and neighbouring academic and R&D institutes, the PARAM Shakti supercomputing facility is accelerating research and

development activities in the multidisciplinary domains of computational and data sciences.



Chief Justice NV Ramana Launched Software Named FASTER :-

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana has launched FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) — a digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the Supreme Court to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel. Speaking at the launch event, the CJJ recalled how the court came up with the idea after reading a newspaper report about a delay in

prisoner release due to a delay in physical orders reaching the prison authorities.



Ministry Of Culture Launches 'Temple 360' Website :-

A unique portal 'Temple 360' has been launched by the Union culture ministry through which devotees can perform online darshan of important pilgrimage sites or temples at any time and from any location. The website will feature live camera feeds from temples all over India. The portal currently offers live streaming of rituals from four well-known temples: Somnath (Gujarat), Kashi Vishwanath (UP), Trimbakeshwar and Ghrishneshwar (both in Maharashtra).



NTPC And GGL Have Agreed To Combine Green Hydrogen Into Piped Natural Gas :-

The state-owned power company NTPC has agreed to collaborate with Gujarat Gas Ltd on a project to blend green hydrogen with the latter's piped natural gas (PNG). Green hydrogen will be produced using electricity generated by NTPC Kawas' existing 1 MW floating solar project. According to a company statement, this will be

blended with PNG in a predetermined proportion and used for cooking applications in NTPC Kawas Township. This first-of-its-kind project in the country is a step toward decarbonizing the cooking sector and achieving national energy self-sufficiency, according to the statement.



China Successfully Launches New Satellite Gaofen-3 03 :-

China has successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite which will become part of its land-sea radar satellite constellation and capture fine-resolution images to help Beijing safeguard its maritime rights and interests. The satellite Gaofen-3 03 was successfully launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre by a Long March-4C rocket and entered the planned orbit. The satellite will link up with the Gaofen-3 and Gaofen-3 02 satellites in orbit to form a land-sea radar satellite constellation and capture reliable, stable synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images.



Infosys And Rolls-Royce Launched 'Aerospace Engineering And Digital Innovation Centre' :-

In Bengaluru, India, Infosys and Rolls-Royce have opened their joint 'Aerospace Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre.' This centre was established to provide high-end R&D services integrated with advanced digital capabilities to Rolls-Royce's engineering and group business services in India. The collaboration between Infosys and Rolls-Royce has been strengthened through strategic agreements aimed at yielding mutual benefits to both organisations over the next seven years.



KADAM: India's First Indigenous Polycentric Prosthetic Knee Made By IIT-Madras :-

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have developed India's first polycentric prosthetic knee, which aims to improve the quality of life for thousands of above-knee amputees. This 'Made in India' product, dubbed 'Kadam,' is a polycentric knee for above knee prosthesis developed in collaboration with the Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India. It was developed by a team at IIT Madras' TTK Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2). Kadam allows above-knee amputees to walk with a comfortable gait.



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami Launched '1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App' :-

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched an anti-corruption mobile app, stating that the state government's anti-corruption campaign will continue. The '1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App,' developed by the vigilance department, makes it easier for people to lodge graft-related complaints directly with the authorities, Mr Dhami said after launching the app. Amit Sinha, director of vigilance, stated that the app is available in both Hindi and English, and that anyone can file a complaint by phone or through the app. All complaints will be registered via the app, and both the data and the complainant's identity will be protected.



IIT Guwahati Collaborated With NTPC To Develop Energy Efficient Tech To Capture CO2 :-

To design and build a highly energy-efficient CO2 capture plant from power plants the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) has collaborated with NTPC

Limited. This technology, which operates on flue gas using a newly activated amine solvent, uses up to 11% less energy than commercial activated MDEA (Monoethanolamine) solvent and up to 31% less energy than benchmark MEA (Monoethanolamine) solvent. A research team led by Professor Bishnupada Mandal of the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Guwahati developed this indigenous technology. It has the potential to save the country a significant amount of foreign exchange.



Nation's First Portable Solar Rooftop System Unveiled In Gandhinagar :-

The system, which was developed in collaboration with the German agency Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit, has been installed at the Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This installation was made possible by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's initiative to enable India to have renewable energy cities. The installation consists of 10PV Port systems, which are standard plug-and-play photovoltaic systems of at least 2kWp with or without battery storage capabilities. The PV ports were created by Servotech Power Systems Limited in New Delhi.



India's 1st Internet Radio "Radio Aksh" For Visually Challenged Launched In Nagpur :-

The Blind Relief Association Nagpur and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham) pioneered the concept of the country's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, dubbed 'Radio Aksh,' which will help the visually-impaired gain seamless access to education resources and audiobooks. This concept was developed as a replacement for audiobooks provided by Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal to the visually impaired on their digital devices, access to which was restricted due to travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.



India's First Pure Green Hydrogen Plant Commissioned In Assam :-

With the commissioning of India's first 99.999 percent pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant, with an installed capacity of 10 kg per day, at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam, Oil India Limited (OIL) has taken the first significant step towards the Green Hydrogen Economy in

India. The plant was completed in a record-breaking three months. The plant was inaugurated by Shri Sushil Chandra Mishra, Chairman and Managing Director, in the presence of Shri Harish Madhav, Director (Finance), and Shri Prasanta Borkakoty, Resident Chief Executive of the company. Using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array, the plant generates Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant. For the first time, AEM technology is being used in India.



NIXI-CSC And Tripura Signed MOU To Set Up International Data Centre :-

According to an official, the Tripura government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre to establish an international standard data centre here. To establish the proposed data centre, the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and CSE e-governance services Ltd have formed a joint venture called NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre. AK Bhattacharjee, in-charge director of the IT department, signed the MoU on behalf of the state government, and Anil Jain, CEO of NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre, was the signatory from NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre. According to the terms of the agreement, the joint venture will allow the state government to host all of its data in the proposed Data Centre and will also provide data to the state at no cost.

16: Sports



Max Verstappen Wins 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix :-

Max Verstappen of Red Bull, the defending Formula One champion of the Netherlands, made a decisive pass three laps from the end of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix to take his first win of the season and the 21st of his career. Under the floodlights at the fast Jeddah Corniche circuit, the 24-year-old, who had started fourth, crossed the line just half a second ahead of the Monegasque, with

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz third. Last week, the Italian team had opened the season with a one-two in Bahrain, and this victory put Red Bull back in the game after a blank in Sakhir.



Canada Reaches Football World Cup For First Time Since 1986 :-

After a 4-0 victory over Jamaica in Toronto, Canada qualified for the men's FIFA World Cup for the first time

in 36 years. The country's only previous appearance in the tournament was in Mexico in 1986. Canada is the 20th country to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, which will be held in Qatar from November 21 to December 18 and will feature 32 nations competing for the ultimate prize. The historic victory came 37 years after Canada qualified for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico by defeating Honduras 1-0 on September 14, 1985. That was Canada's only trip to the World Cup.



Meghalaya Is Set To Host 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022 :-

Meghalaya is gearing up to host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022, which will take place at the SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong from April 18th to April 25th, 2022. While speaking with the media, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma stated that the tournament is one of the largest sporting events that the state has hosted to date, among others. This is the second time the Northeast has hosted the world's largest table tennis tournament.



Australia Won ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 :-

Australia defeated England by 71 runs to win their seventh Women's World Cup title. Nat Sciver's score of 148 kept unbeaten. Earlier, in the Women's World Cup final, Alyssa Healy smashed a whirlwind 170 to power Australia to a mammoth 356 for five against England. Australia's dominating performance after being invited to bat was impressive. Aside from Healy's outstanding performance, Rachael Haynes (68) and Beth Mooney (62) both hit fine half-centuries. Healy's innings lasted 138 balls and included 26 boundaries. England's Anya Shrubsole took three wickets, allowing 46 runs.



Arjun Erigaisi wins Delhi International Open chess tournament :-

Telangana chess player Arjun Erigaisi extended his winning streak by winning the 19th Delhi International open chess tournament. The youngster from Warangal smashed through Karthik Venkataraman's defences to win the 19th Delhi International open chess tournament in New Delhi. Arjun received Rs 4 lakh as the winner's purse, as well as a gleaming trophy, and appears to be a foregone conclusion for the main team in the upcoming Chess Olympiad in Chennai, having scaled past 2675 in live Elo ratings.



Ministry Of Sports Releases USD 72,124 To UNESCO Fund For Elimination Of Doping :-

According to the resolution of the 7COP held in Paris on September 29-31, 2019, the State Parties agreed to contribute 1% of their respective nation's regular budget to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. In accordance with the commitment and Resolution 8CP/14 of the Eighth Session of the Conference of Parties (COP8) held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from October 26 to 28, 2021, the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has increased India's contribution to the UNESCO Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport to twice the assessed value, i.e. USD 72,124 in 2022. First time in 2021, the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports made a contribution of USD 28172 towards the UNESCO Fund on the basis of the request received from UNESCO.



Riya Jadon wins 11th DGC Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship :-

Thirteen-year-old Riya Jadon won the DGC Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship at New Delhi, following a close fight with older sister Lavanya Jadon. Riya, who carded 78, 80, and 74, also took home the junior girls trophy. This year's tournament, which returned to the Delhi Golf Club after a two-year hiatus, drew over a hundred female golfers. Anju Munjal, Vice President, Usha International, said at the prize distribution ceremony, "As part of our ethos of promoting an active and healthy lifestyle, USHA is proud to have supported golf platforms that have paved the way for juniors and amateurs as champions in the making."



Charles Leclerc Won F1 Australian Grand Prix 2022:-

Charles Leclerc (Ferrari-Monaco) won the Formula One (F1) 2022 Australian Grand Prix, which took place on April 10, 2022 in Melbourne, Victoria. It was the third round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship. Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Racing-RBPT – Mexico) finished second, with George Russell (Mercedes – Great Britain) finishing third. Verstappen was in second place when his car broke down with 18 laps to go. Sergio Perez of Red Bull finished second, ahead of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes.



Dipika Pallikal Karthik And Saurav Ghosal Wins First-Ever Gold Medal At World Doubles Squash Championships :-

Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal defeated Adrian Waller and Alison Waters of England in the mixed doubles final (11-6, 11-8) to win India's first-ever gold medal at the WSF World Doubles Squash Championships. Dipika Pallikal won the women's doubles gold (11-9, 4-11, 11-8) with her longtime partner Joshna Chinappa an hour and a half later. Dipika last competed in the 2018 Asian Games, where she won bronze in the singles event, and was making her return to the sport after a four-year absence.



Thailand Open Boxing Tournament 2022: India Bags 10 Medal With 3 Gold :-

Govind Sahani, Ananta Chopde, and Sumit of India won gold medals in the 2022 Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament in Phuket. The trio won convincingly against their Thai opponents, while four other Indian

boxers – Monika (48kg), Amit Panghal (52kg), Varinder Singh (60kg), and Ashish Kumar (81kg) – took silver medals after losing in the finals. Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg), and Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg) all won bronze medals in the semi-finals, as the 15-member Indian contingent finished with 10 medals.



Netherlands Won FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 :-

The Netherlands won the FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup after defeating Germany 3-1 in the final. The Netherlands had scored 46 goals and conceded none going into the final. Germany, on the other hand, had lost a pool match but used it as a springboard to improve with each game. Danique van der Veerdonk scored the first goal in seven minutes, giving the Netherlands an early lead. Then, in the 32nd minute, Germany's Sophia Schwabe levelled the score. Tessa Beetsma cut the Dutch team's lead to 2-1 just two minutes later.



R Pragganandhaa Wins Prestigious Reykjavik Open Chess Tournament :-

R Pragganandhaa, a young Indian Grandmaster, has won the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament with 7.5 points after nine rounds. Pragganandhaa, 16, defeated compatriot GM D Gukesh in the final round to emerge as the sole winner. Pragganandhaa won the all-India battle after his opponent blundered when he appeared to be losing. The highly-rated Indian went undefeated through nine rounds, finishing with victories over Matthieu Cornette (France) and Gukesh in the final two rounds.



Orleans Masters 2022: Indian Shuttler Mithun Manjunath Won Silver :-

Shuttler Mithun Manjunath of India had to settle for a silver medal after losing to Toma Junior Popov in the final of the men's singles event at the Orleans Masters 2022 in France. The 79th-ranked Indian shuttler was defeated by the home favourite shuttler Popov in 50 minutes at the Palais des Sports arena by 21-11, 21-19. The Indian went into the first break trailing by five points in his first BWF final. Following the restart, the Frenchman continued his charge and easily won the first game.



India Will Host Street Child Cricket World Cup In 2023 :-

The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023, organised by Street Child United and Save the Children India, will bring 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year. The event, which will take place in September ahead of the ICC World Cup, will feature a mixed-gender cricket tournament for street-connected children and young people. This championship was held in London in 2019, with eight teams competing, and Team India South emerged victorious after defeating the hosts England. Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, England, Hungary, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe will all take part this year.



Tamil Nadu Beat Punjab In National Basketball Championship Final :-

At the Nehru Indoor Stadium, Tamil Nadu men defeated Punjab 87-69 to reclaim the senior National basketball title. This was Tamil Nadu's tenth national championship. A Aravind (25 points) and M Arvind Kumar were the main architects of the Muin Bek-led team's victory (21). P Jeevanantham (14) and Muin (12) also contributed to the victory. The eagerly anticipated match began with the

home team leading by 12 points (29-17) at the end of the first quarter.



Danish Open Swimming: Sajan Prakash Wins Gold :-

On the opening day of the swimming championships Indian swimmers Sajan Prakash and Vedaant Madhavan started their campaign at the Danish Open 2022 on a rousing note as they won a gold and a silver, respectively. Sajan Prakash veteran swimmer and 2-time Olympian took home the gold medal in the 200m Butterfly event, clocking a time of 1:59:27. Otherwise, Prakash's personal best time is 1:56:38. On the other hand, Indian actor R. Madhavan's son, Vedaant Madhavan also got off to a fantastic start at the Danish Open 2022 and won the silver medal in the 1500m Freestyle swimming event.



Haryana Wins 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship :-

Haryana won the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship, defeating Tamil Nadu 3-1 in a shootout after the game ended 1-1 in regulation time. Deepak gave Haryana a 1-0 lead in the fourth minute of the

match. However, Saravana Kumar quickly levelled the score for Tamil Nadu, scoring in the 10th minute of the match. In the shootout, Haryana scored three times in their first four attempts, while Tamil Nadu scored once but missed the next three times.



Indian GM D Gukesh Won 48th La Roda International Open Chess Tournament Title :-

D Gukesh, a young Indian Grandmaster, won the 48th La Roda International Open Chess tournament, scoring eight points from nine rounds. The 15-year-old GM from Chennai, who went unbeaten through nine rounds, defeated Israel's Victor Mikhalevski in the final round to win by a clear margin over Armenia's Haik M Martirosyan, who received 7.5 points. R Praggnanandhaa, another teenage GM Gukesh's compatriot, finished third. He finished with seven points, as did four other competitors, including another Indian, Raunak Sadhwani, but won third place due to a better tie-break score.



A First-Of-Its-Kind Mobile App Launched For Khelo India University Games 2021 :-

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the second edition of the Khelo India University Games, which will be held in Bengaluru's tech capital, will have its own mobile application, which will be free to download from the Play Store and App Store. The unique 'Khelo India Uni Games 2021' mobile app promises to be a one-stop shop for all

information regarding the prestigious event scheduled to begin on April 24, according to an official press statement. It is the brainchild of the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) and hosts Jain deemed-to-be University. The Games, which will be India's first large-scale mass-participation sporting event since the pandemic, will feature over 4,500 participants from 189 universities competing for top honours in 20 disciplines.

17: State



Pramod Sawant Sworn In As Chief Minister Of Goa For 2nd Term :-

On March 28, Pramod Sawant, who led the BJP to a 20-seat victory in the recently concluded elections to the 40-member Goa Assembly, was sworn in for the second time as the state's Chief Minister. Mr Sawant, 48, was sworn in as governor of Goa by Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai at the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium near the state capital Panaji. The event was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, BJP national president JP Nadda, Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Arlekar, and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadanavis.



Gujarat Gets India's First Steel Road :-

Surat, India's Diamond City, has become the first city in the country to have a road made of steel waste. The steel slag road was built by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India in collaboration with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) and CRRI (Central Road Research Institute), as well as the government think tank NITI Aayog. The road is made entirely of processed steel slag and is located in the Hazira Industrial Area. The 6-lane, 1-kilometer road is an experimental project that could help with waste disposal. Slag is a waste product from the smelting of ores and scrap metals.



Andhra Pradesh's First 'She Auto' Stands Set Up :-

The police in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor have set up three 'She Auto' stands, the first of its kind in the state, to provide safe transportation to women and girl students. The dedicated auto stands at the RTC Bus Stand, Mahila University, and Ruia Hospital were inaugurated by MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, city Mayor Dr R Sireesha, and Urban Superintendent of Police Venkata Appala Naidu. The MLA praised SP Mr Naidu for emphasising the safety of female auto-rickshaw drivers. The goal of the 'She Auto' stands, according to the SP, is to provide safe transportation for women.



Gangaur Festival Celebrated In Rajasthan :-

Gangaur is one of Rajasthan's most important festivals. Where women folk dancers worship the goddess Gauri, Shiva's wife. It mostly occurs between March and April. Unmarried women worship her in order to find a good husband, whereas married women do so for the welfare, health, and long life of their husbands, as well as for a happy married life. The Gangaur festival is a colourful affair that draws a large number of tourists. It typically

lasts 18 days, as most regions begin performing the rituals a day after Holi.



Tamil Nadu Government Launched 'Kaaval Uthavi' App For Public During Emergency :-

M K Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has launched the 'Kaaval Uthavi' app, which includes 60 features for requesting police assistance in an emergency. The app is used to send a 'emergency' alert to the police control room in order to obtain immediate assistance in the event of a distress or emergency by members of the public. By pressing the emergency red button, the user's current location will be communicated to the control room. The Chief Minister's 'Kaaval Uthavi' app, which was launched at the Secretariat, is intended to assist people, particularly women, in seeking police assistance in an emergency.



Sarhul Festival 2022 Celebrated In Jharkhand :-

Sarhul Festival, the most popular tribal celebration in Jharkhand, marks the start of the new year. It is popular among tribal communities of the local Sarna religion, particularly the Munda, Ho, and Oraon tribes. Every year

at the beginning of spring in the first month of the Hindu calendar, on the third day of the moon or the fortnight of 'Chaitra,' this vibrant festival is celebrated. Travelers from all over the world flock to Jharkhand to witness the eastern Indian state's colourful fiesta. It was observed on Monday, April 4, this year.



India's first case of XE variant of coronavirus disease reported from Mumbai :-

On April 6, India's first case of coronavirus variant XE was discovered in Mumbai. For nearly two weeks, India has reported fewer than 2,000 cases per day, compared to a peak of over 300,000 cases per day in January this year. According to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials, the individual who tested positive for the XE variant was a fully vaccinated 50-year-old woman with no comorbidity and was asymptomatic. She had arrived from South Africa on February 10 with no prior travel history. She had tested negative for the virus upon arrival.



Madhya Pradesh Government Launched Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana :-

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, launched the 'Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti' Yojna. The state government will provide up to 50 lakh for MSME start-ups under the scheme. Young people will be able to apply for loans ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh under this plan. The proposal is unique in that the state government will provide a 3% interest subsidy on top of a bank guarantee.



Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea Will Get GI Tag From European Commission :-

Kangra tea is likely to be designated as a geographical indication (GI) by the European Union. Since April 1999, when the industries department transferred the subject to the agriculture department, tea cultivation and development in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra region have steadily improved. Kangra tea was awarded the Indian Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2005. According to a senior official in the agriculture department, the development and cultivation of Kangra tea was being promoted by four departments, out of which state's co-operative and agriculture departments and CSIR were one entity.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Inaugurates The Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram :-

Mr. M K Stalin, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, has inaugurated the Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram in Periyakozhuvaari Panchayat in Vanur taluk of Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu adjoining Puducherry. At the function, the keys were distributed to the allottees. At a cost of 2 crore 88 lakh rupees, 100 dwelling units with all basic amenities were constructed. The Chief Minister also inaugurated 38 projects completed in the Villupuram District at another function held at Ozhunthiapattu in the nearby Vanur Taluk. He also distributed various welfare schemes totaling more than 42 crore rupees to a total of 10722 beneficiaries. Mr. Stalin stated at the event that all 248 Samathuvapuram Villages would be renovated at a cost of 190 Crore Rupees.



ADB To Approve \$2 Million Loan To Support Urban Development In Nagaland :-

To design climate resilient urban infrastructure, strengthen institutional capacity, and improve municipal resource mobilisation in 16 Nagaland district headquarter towns (DHTs) the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed a \$2 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) Loan. Following the signing of the Agreement, Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, stated that the facility would support key preparatory activities for the upcoming project aimed at improving urban infrastructure and services in Nagaland in order to help the state realize its economic potential. He stated that the Indian government is committed to the development of the Northeast region.



Union Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates Seema Darshan Project At Indo-Pak Border :-

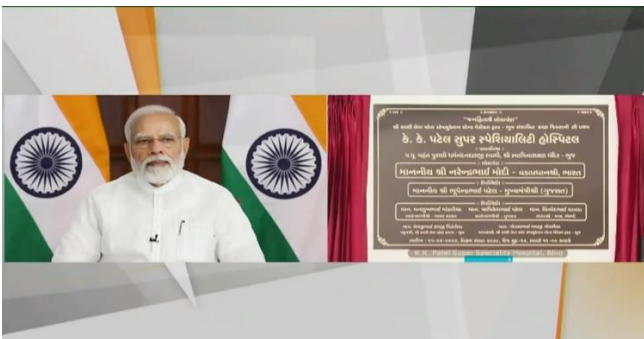
Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated an Indo-Pakistan border viewing point in Nadabet, Gujarat, about 188 kilometres from Ahmedabad, as part of the Seema Darshan project. This attraction, also known as the 'Wagah of Gujarat,' is located in the Rann of Kutch region and is connected by a narrow bitumen road that cuts across mudflats that become inundated during high tide. The most appealing aspect of the Seema Darshan project is the opportunity for civilians to view the fenced international border with Pakistan at 'Zero Point.'



Uttarakhand To Launch "Him Prahari" Scheme For Ex-Servicemen & Youngsters :-

The Him Prahari scheme aims to prevent people from leaving the state. It is intended for ex-servicemen and young people. To ensure that people do not leave, the

scheme will concentrate on areas where migration occurs at a rapid pace. The state government will prioritise the settlement of ex-servicemen in areas bordering the state under the scheme. The state government will provide all necessary assistance to ex-servicemen and youth from the state in order for them to settle in districts with international borders while keeping long-term national interests in mind.



PM Modi Dedicates K. K. Patel Super Speciality Hospital In Bhuj :-

Through video conferencing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the K. K. Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj to the nation. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that this hospital will provide people with high-quality healthcare at a reasonable cost. It will ensure the best possible treatment for soldiers' families and members of the trading community. Better healthcare facilities, he claims, promote not only disease prevention but also social justice. PM Modi stated that the availability of affordable and high-quality medical care for the poor strengthens his faith in the system.



Manipur To Host The Highest Indian National Flag At INA Complex :-

N. Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of Manipur, announced that a 165-foot-tall Indian National Flag, the tallest in the Northeast region, would be installed at the Indian National Army (INA) Headquarters Complex in Moirang, Manipur. Shri Biren stated at the 78th Anniversary of Flag Hoisting Day observed at INA Martyr's Memorial Complex, Moirang, that the pole for the 165-foot-tall Indian National Flag had already been erected and that the Union Home Minister would visit the State and unfurl the Indian National Flag as part of the State government's 100-day action plan.



"Hunar Haat" 40th Edition Organised In Mumbai :-

The 40th edition of "Hunar Haat," a platform for preserving, protecting, and promoting local artisans and craftspeople, was inaugurated in Mumbai by Union Minister Anurag Thakur. The Minister urged industrialists to pre-order Diwali items from this 'Hunar Haat.' 'The 40th 'Hunar Haat' will feature 400 stalls from across the country. 'Over 1,000 of our artisans and craftsmen are employed here,' Anurag Thakur added. Every "Hunar Haat" has seen an average of 8 to 10 lakh visitors. He said, over 4 crore people have visited 39 "Hunar Haats" organised across the country to buy indigenous products, support artisans and craftspeople, and enjoy various musical and cultural programmes.



Ethosh Digital Has Opened Its First IT Training & Services Centre In Leh. :-

Leh has taken the first step toward establishing a sector of information technology. Ladakh Additional Director General of Police SS Khandare has inaugurated Ethosh Digital's first IT Training and Services centre in Leh. Ethosh Digital is a Multinational Company based in California that specialises in digital communications and AR/VR products. The Aseem Foundation, a Pune-based non-governmental organisation that works in India's border regions in the fields of education, entrepreneurship, health, sports, and sustainable development, has assisted Ethosh Digital in opening the first IT office in Ladakh.



J&K Launched 'Jan Nigrani' App To Help People Lodge Complaints :-

According to officials, the Jammu and Kashmir administration's rural development and panchayati raj department has launched a mobile application to help people lodge complaints about various schemes online.

According to them, the 'jan nigrani' app is an internet-based solution for reporting and resolving grievances by residents of Jammu and Kashmir against various schemes of the department. The app was created as part of an e-governance initiative to provide people with a 24x7 platform for resolving their grievances. Furthermore, the mobile app would connect residents and officials through a single platform, where a grievance registered against a specific scheme would be automatically mapped to the authority concerned for resolution, according to the officials.



Mumbai To Host India's First International Cruise Conference :-

According to Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH, Government of India, the Indian cruise market has the potential to grow tenfold over the next decade, driven by rising demand and disposable incomes. In addition, he announced the upcoming 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022, which will be held on May 14th and 15th, 2022. According to the Minister, India is preparing to be a magnificent cruise destination and to capture a growing market. "Indian cruise market has the potential to grow by ten times over the next decade", he said adding, "The flagship Sagarmala initiative by PM Narendra Modi is connecting the ports of Chennai, Vizag and Andaman with Goa, which receive maximum tourists."



World's Largest Electric 3-Wheeler Making Plant Will Set Up In Telangana :-

With a Hyderabad-based entrepreneur's company Biliti Electric announcing plans to establish the facility in Hyderabad, Telangana is set to become the home of the world's largest electric three-wheeler factory. The California-based company, led by Rahul Gayam, will build a factory capable of producing 2,40,000 electric vehicles per year. According to a press release, the new plant is expected to generate \$150 million in private investment and to create 3,000 jobs in the state. Biliti currently manufactures its three-wheelers through an exclusive manufacturing partnership with Gayam Motor Works (GMW) in Hyderabad.



Maharashtra Is First State In India To Launch Digital Bus Service :-

Maharashtra Is India's First State To Launch Digital Bus Service "Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is India's first bus service to go completely digital," said Aaditya Thackeray, State Environment Minister of Maharashtra. "We will be implementing this in all 10 buses on this route in a few days and later expand it on all 438 routes across the city," he added.

According to Lokesh Chandra, the General Manager (GM) of BEST, "this is the country's first-ever 100% digital bus service, aiming to increase the digitisation of bus ticketing system." "It provides travellers with ease and convenience because they can tap-in using their smart card or the 'Chalo' app installed on their smartphones," said GM.



Khongjom Day Was Observed In Manipur :-

On April 23, Manipur celebrated Khongjom Day with state honours at Kheba Ching in Khongjom, Thoubal District. The solemn occasion began with a guard of honour and a gun salute at the Samadhi of Paona Brajabasi, who sacrificed his life during the final battle of the Anglo-Manipuri War in 1891. Every year on April 23rd, Khongjom Day commemorates the gallant Manipuri warriors who made the supreme sacrifice fighting against the British to protect Manipur's freedom in the battle of Khongjom during the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War. Governor La Ganesan, Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, ministers, MLAs, and other government officials were in attendance.



PM Modi inaugurated 'Dudh Vani' Community Radio Station :-

During his visit to Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a community radio station (CRS) dedicated to animal husbandry called 'Dudh Vani.' The Banas Dairy Community Radio station, established by the Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union or Banas Dairy, will connect over five lakh dairy farmers

in 1,700 villages across the state. This will be the country's first cattle breeders-only community radio station. Notably, in collaboration with All India Radio, the apex dairy development organisation, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has launched a bi-weekly podcast series dedicated to dairy farmers. The dedicated radio station for dairy farmers at Banas Dairy is the world's first of its kind in the world's largest milk-producing country.

18: Summits & Conferences



Yamunotsav Held At ITO Yamuna Ghat, Organised By NMCG :-

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has organised Yamunotsav at ASITA East River Front, ITO Bridge, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, in collaboration with a group of NGOs, to celebrate the glory of Yamuna with a "pledge to keep it clean." Shri G. Asok Kumar, DG, NMCG, congratulated all participating organisations on successfully engaging a wide range of stakeholders and age groups in Yamunotsav and urged everyone to work together to clean the Yamuna, the Ganga's largest and most important tributary.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Virtually Attends 5th BIMSTEC Summit :-

On March 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a virtual summit of the seven-nation BIMSTEC grouping, which is expected to focus on increasing economic engagement among its member countries. Sri Lanka hosted the summit in its capacity as the BIMSTEC chair (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan are members of the BIMSTEC, in addition to India and Sri Lanka.



SEBI Has Announced An Ideathon Manthan To Foster Innovation In The Securities Business :-

As she launched an ideathon to promote innovation, SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch stated that India is well positioned to leverage technology in the securities market to deliver customised solutions at a very low cost to individuals across the country. The SEBI Chairperson stated at the start of the ideathon 'Manthan' that the adoption of financial technology (FinTech) in the securities market presents significant opportunities for stakeholders. Manthan is a six-week ideathon hosted by SEBI in collaboration with the BSE, NSE, NSDL, CDSL, Kfintech, CAMS, LinkInTime, and MCX. According to a press release issued by SEBI, it will facilitate the creation of a pool of ideas and innovative solutions centred on the securities market.



Ministry Of Ayush's Yoga Mahotsav Begins At The Red Fort In Delhi :-

On World Health Day, April 7, the Ministry of Ayush held a grand programme called 'Yoga Mahotsav' at Red Fort to demonstrate a common yoga protocol. The event in Delhi was attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. In addition to World Health Day, the event marked the 75th day of the countdown to International Day of Yoga (IDY), which is observed on June 21 each year. The Ayush ministry has planned a 100-day countdown programme for the 8th International Day of Yoga, with 100 organisations promoting yoga in 100 different locations.



Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates Scientific Convention On 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice For Wellness' :-

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of AYUSH, inaugurated a two-day scientific convention in New Delhi titled "Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness." The three apex bodies under the Ministry of Ayush, namely the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, the National Commission for Homoeopathy, and the National Institute of Homoeopathy, have collaborated to organise this convention on World Homoeopathy Day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann.



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Chairs The 20th NTCA Meeting :-

The 20th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held in Arunachal Pradesh's Pakke Tiger Reserve, presided over by Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav. The NTCA meeting took place outside of the national capital for the first time in history. To obtain firsthand information about reserves, local issues, and so on, the Union Minister directed that these meetings be held outside of Delhi in forest areas or tiger reserves in the future. On the occasion, the minister stated that we should promote our tiger reserves across the country, which have incredible flora and fauna, while also ensuring the livelihoods of people who rely on forests.



PM Modi Virtually Addressed 14th Foundation Day Of Umiya Mata Temple :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the Umiya Mata Temple in Junagadh, Gujarat, has now become a centre of social consciousness. He stated that the temple serves the poor people of the community by providing free health care services as well as religious and social activities. On Ramnavami, Prime Minister Modi was virtually addressing the 14th foundation day celebrations of the Umiya Mata Temple in Junagadh. Mr. Modi also inaugurated the temple in 2008, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.



President Ramnath Kovind Inaugurates Madhavpur Ghed Fair :-

On April 10, 2022, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, has inaugurated the five-day Madhavpur Ghed Fair in Madhavpur Ghed, Porbandar, Gujarat. Every year since 2018, the Government of Gujarat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, has organised this fair to commemorate the sacred union of Lord Krishna and Rukmini. President Kovind stated that it was his privilege to inaugurate the Madhavpur Ghed fair organized in the village associated with the life of Shri Krishna and near Porbandar, the birth place of Bapu. The President stated that folk-story of marriage of Shri Krishna and Rukmini shows that how ancient is the cultural unity of India and how deep were the roots of our social harmony.



Fourth US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue In Washington DC :-

The fourth '2+2' dialogue between India and the US is currently taking place in Washington, DC. S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, India's External Affairs and Defence Ministers, are meeting with their American counterparts, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. The 2+2 dialogue is a format for meetings of India's and its allies' foreign and defence ministers on strategic and security issues. A 2+2 ministerial dialogue allows partners to better understand and appreciate each other's strategic concerns and sensitivities while taking political factors on both sides into account, allowing them to build a stronger, more integrated strategic relationship in a rapidly changing global environment.



20th India-France Joint Staff Talks Took Place In Paris :-

On April 12-13, 2022, the 20th edition of India-France Joint Staff talks took place in Paris, France. Air Vice Marshal B Manikantan, Assistant Chief of Integrated Staff, Int-C (Military Cooperation), Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), and Brigadier General Eric Peltier, Head of Bilateral Cooperation South/Staff HQ, co-chaired the meeting. The meeting centred on new initiatives within the framework of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanisms, as well as strengthening ongoing defence engagements. The India-France Joint Staff talks are a forum established to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries through regular strategic and operational discussions.



Puducherry LG Inaugurated Beach Festival 'I Sea PONDY-2022':-

Dr. Tamsilaisi Soundarajan, Governor of Telangana, inaugurated the first-ever Beach Festival 'I Sea PONDY 2022' in Pondicherry to promote tourism and attract tourists. Until the 17th, the beach in Pondicherry hosts boat races, concerts, art shows, and seafood cooking. From morning to evening, the lighthouse featured kite flying on the nearby beach. A large number of young people and boys came eagerly to fly kites. The event organisers also provided more training than kites for those who were unfamiliar with kites.



Narendra Singh Tomar Inaugurates A Nationwide Meeting On Agriculture For The 2022 Kharif Campaign :-

The government has set a target of 328 million tonnes of foodgrain production for 2022-23. The target was announced at the National Conference on Agriculture: Kharif Campaign 2022, which was inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Senior officials from the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, as well as officials from state agriculture departments, attended the meeting. The kharif foodgrain production target has been set at 163.15 million tonnes, while the rabi foodgrain production target has been set at 164.85 million tonnes, out of the 328 million foodgrain production target set for 2022-23.



Surat Hosts The 'Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization' Conference :-

The three-day "Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization" conference kicked off in Surat. The event is being

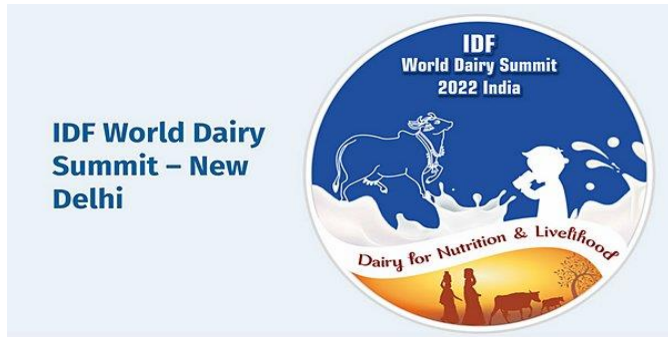
organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, in collaboration with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd., in response to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence. The event's chief guest was Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel addressed the gathering via video message. The event also included the release of the Urban Outcomes Framework 2022, which included the 'Ease of Living,' 'Municipal Performance Index,' 'Data Maturity, and ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework.



PM Modi Inaugurated Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit 2022 :-

The Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit 2022 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The three-day Ayush global summit has organised a dialogue with entrepreneurs, industry, startups, and other stakeholders to encourage them to increase investment in Ayush innovation as the sector continues to show enormous growth potential. The Prime Minister announced several new initiatives in the Ayush sector, the first of which was the creation of a special Ayush mark for Ayush products. This will give people all over the world confidence in Ayush products of high quality. The government will establish a network

of Ayush parks across the country to promote, research, and manufacture Ayush products.



IDF to organise World Dairy Summit 2022 in India

:-

The next IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 will be held from September 12 to September 15 in New Delhi. The International Dairy Federation (IDF) has announced that registration for its renowned major annual event in the global dairy sector is now open. According to a statement, the Summit will provide a good platform for all dairy experts, leaders, and interested stakeholders from around the world to connect, learn, and exchange information about the dairy sector globally. Business leaders, scientists and technicians, health and nutrition experts, marketing professionals, and a diverse international audience will be among those attending the Summit.

SECTION 2



Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. After 22 years who among the following became the first Indian male to win a silver medal at the All-England Open Badminton Championships in 2022?

- A) H. S. Prannoy
- B) Lakshya Sen
- C) Srikanth Kidambi
- D) Viktor Axelsen

2. Which country will host the Asia Cup T20 tournament in 2022?

- A) Afghanistan
- B) Bangladesh
- C) India
- D) Sri Lanka

3. By defeating Kerala Blasters in finals which team has won its maiden Indian Super League trophy?

- A) Bengaluru FC
- B) Chennaiyin FC
- C) FC Goa
- D) Hyderabad FC

4. When the World Water Day was observed?

- A) 20 March
- B) 21 March
- C) 22 March
- D) 23 March

5. For the second consecutive term who among the following was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Goa?

- A) Bhupendrabhai Patel

- B) Himanta Biswa Sarma
- C) Pramod Sawant
- D) Pushkar Singh Dhami

6. According to the latest Fitch Ratings what is the GDP growth projection of India for FY23?

- A) 9.2%
- B) 8.5%
- C) 8.4%
- D) 7.8%

7. Freelance entrepreneur network GigIndia was acquired by which of the following company?

- A) Amazon
- B) Intel
- C) Microsoft
- D) PhonePe

8. For improving water use in agriculture a new water management and policy centre named AquaMAP was launched by which of the following IIT?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Kanpur
- C) IIT Kharagpur
- D) IIT Madras

9. To launch M. Tech in industrial artificial intelligence which company has partnered with IIT Madras?

- A) Amazon
- B) TCS
- C) Infosys

D) Wipro

10. According to the World Air Quality Report by IQAir which city became the most polluted capital city in 2021?

- A) Surat
- B) Mumbai
- C) New Delhi
- D) Beijing

11. The carbon-neutral farming was first introduced by which of the following state in India?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Jharkhand

12. Which of the following became the first paperless Assembly state in India to implement the National e-Vidhan project?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Jharkhand

13. With which of the following country India conducted the 3rd edition of the joint military exercise 'EX-DUSTLIK'?

- A) Uzbekistan
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Seychelles
- D) Mauritius

14. To support sustainable projects which bank has launched its green deposits programme?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Standard Chartered
- C) HSBC Bank
- D) DBS Bank India

15. To help SMEs make data-driven decisions 'Payment Analytics' was launched by which of the following company?

- A) Google Pay
- B) Myntra
- C) Paytm
- D) Phone Pe

16. The 73rd annual National Conference of the Indian Psychiatric Society was held at_____.

- A) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- D) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

17. To save black rhinos in South Africa the world's first wildlife conservation bond was issued by which of the following organisation?

- A) International Monetary Fund
- B) World Bank
- C) World Economic Forum
- D) World Wide Fund for Nature

18. Which country will host the four nations military exercise 'Bersama Shield 2022'?

- A) Australia
- B) Malaysia
- C) Oman

D) Singapore

19. To sell National Pension Scheme and insurance which company got the licence from PFRDA and IRDAI?

- A) Shriram Transport Finance
- B) Motilal Oswal
- C) FinMapp
- D) Cholamandalam

20. To launch a co-branded credit card which bank has partnered with Chennai Super Kings?

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda
- D) Axis Bank

21. Mario Marcel central bank Governor of which of the following country has won the Governor of the year award at the Central Banking Awards 2022?

- A) Australia
- B) Chile
- C) Spain
- D) Switzerland

22. Steve Wilhite has passed away recently at the age of 74. He was inventor of which of the following technologies?

- A) Internet Explorer
- B) e-mail
- C) GIF
- D) HTML

23. The theme of World Tuberculosis Day 2022 is_____.

A) Unite to end TB

B) The clock is ticking

C) It's Time

D) Invest to end TB. save lives

24. Which Indian state was the first to use a dynamic map to track land ownership?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Karnataka
- C) Bihar
- D) Assam

25. 24x7 WhatsApp chatbot named 'Maya' was launched by which of the following state's tourism department?

- A) Telangana
- B) Manipur
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Kerala

26. _____ was appointed as the Adviser in the Union Ministry of Defence.

- A) Anup Kandelwal
- B) Sandeep Singh
- C) V. R. Chaudhari
- D) Vinod G. Khandare

27. Which bank's former Chairman Rajnish Kumar has joined the advisory board of Dun & Bradstreet?

- A) Punjab National Bank
- B) State Bank of India
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda

28. In Jamnagar, Gujarat President Ram Nath Kovind has awarded President's Colour to which of the following Indian Naval Ship (INS).

- A) INS Sharuya
- B) INS Valsura
- C) INS Vela
- D) INS Vikrant

29. To set up Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat India has signed an agreement with which of the following organisation?

- A) WHO
- B) UNEP
- C) UNCF
- D) NATO

30. For its medical devices park which state government has signed an MoU with NIPER as its knowledge partner?

- A) Assam
- B) Gujarat
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Madhya Pradesh

31. Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairman of BARC India?

- A) Shashi Sinha
- B) Pardeep Kumar Bhardwaj
- C) Mukesh Kumar Surana
- D) Dinesh Kumar Khara

32. _____ was re-elected as the Chairman of the Payments Council of India?

- A) Ram Raghavan

- B) M. N. Srinivasu
- C) Praveena Rai
- D) Vishwas Patel

33. Which bank's former CEO Mukesh Jain was appointed as a Member of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority?

- A) Oriental Bank of Commerce
- B) Punjab National Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

34. Justice K. N. Phaneendra was appointed by which of the following state as its new Upa Lokayukta?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Tripura
- D) Uttarakhand

35. According to the NITI Aayog report, which state ranked first in the Export Preparedness Index 2021?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Haryana
- C) Gujarat
- D) Andhra Pradesh

36. To build a floating dock an agreement with the Goa Shipyard Limited was signed by which of the following country?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Nepal
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) China

37. India's first defence fund was launched by which of the following mutual funds?

- A) Tata Digital India Funds
- B) SBI Mutual Funds
- C) HDFC Mutual Funds
- D) BoB Mutual Funds

38. To offer financial protection to consumers which life insurance firm has partnered with PhonePe?

- A) Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company
- B) Max Life Insurance Company
- C) New India Assurance Company
- D) United India Insurance Company

39. _____ was appointed as the Chairman of Kalyan Jewellers.

- A) Vinod Rai
- B) Sanjay Jain
- C) Jai Ram
- D) Dinesh Kumar

40. _____ won the Best Actor Award at the 94th Academy Awards in 2022.

- A) Andrew Garfield
- B) Denzel Washington
- C) Johnny Depp
- D) Will Smith

41. Philippines conducted the military exercises named 'Balikatan 2022' with which of the following country?

- A) US
- B) UK
- C) India

D) Canada

42. Which of the following international organization elected Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo as its new Director-General?

- A) NATO
- B) WHO
- C) ILO
- D) ICJ

43. According to the latest ICRA report released in March 2022 what is India's projected GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2022-23?

- A) 10.6%
- B) 8.1%
- C) 7.2%
- D) 6.6%

44. For two multipurpose vessels the Union Ministry of Defence has signed an MoU with which of the following company?

- A) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- B) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C) Larsen & Toubro Ltd
- D) Bharat Earth Movers Limited

45. A Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti was inaugurated at which of the following IIT?

- A) IIT Kanpur
- B) IIT Kharagpur
- C) IIT Madras
- D) IIT Roorkee

46. Where did the World Table Tennis Contender 2022 Championship was held, in which India won two medals?

- A) Doha, Qatar
- B) Dubai, The United Arab Emirates
- C) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- D) London, United Kingdom

47. Which of the following railway has accomplished the 'Mission 100 percent electrification'?

- A) Chandigarh railway
- B) Jhunjhunu railway
- C) Bhatinda railway
- D) Konkan railway

48. RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has inaugurated the varnika ink manufacturing unit of BRBNMPL at_____.

- A) Mysuru, Karnataka
- B) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- C) Kolkata, West Bengal
- D) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

49. To end border dispute in six contested areas Assam has signed a pact with which of the following state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Manipur
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Tripura

50. Which country recently became the East African Community's 7th member?

- A) The Democratic Republic of Congo
- B) South Sudan
- C) Rwanda
- D) Kenya

51. When the World Piano Day 2022 was observed?

- A) 31 March
- B) 28 March
- C) 29 March
- D) 27 March

52. According to the Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 who among the following is emerged as the most valued celebrity in India?

- A) Akshay Kumar
- B) M. S. Dhoni
- C) Ranveer Singh
- D) Virat Kohli

53. According to the Hurun global under forty self-made billionaires 2022 what is the rank of India?

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

54. Who among the following bags the 19th Delhi International Chess title?

- A) Arjun Erigaisi
- B) D. Gukesh
- C) Harsha Bharthakoti
- D) Karthik Venkataraman

55. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) has conducted its maiden maritime exercise named 'IMEX-22' at _____.

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Odisha
- C) Goa
- D) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

56. 'Digi Centre' in Mangalore was opened by which of the following bank?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda

57. According to the latest India Ratings (Ind-Ra) report released in March 2022 what is the GDP growth projection of India for FY23?

- A) 5.3–6.1%
- B) 6.6–7.7%
- C) 7.0–7.2%
- D) 7.0–7.8%

58. To implement digital Know Your Customer (KYC) for its network across India which bank has partnered with Kwik.ID?

- A) Central Bank of India
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

59. To launch 'Tap to Pay' for UPI users in India which company has partnered with Pine Labs?

- A) Google Pay

- B) Mobikwik
- C) Paytm
- D) PhonePe

60. To launch new range of co-branded credit cards which bank has partnered with Shoppers Stop?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

61. To set up a \$ 100 million partial guarantee programme for microfinance institutions in India which organisation has partnered with HSBC India?

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- C) New Development Bank
- D) World Bank

62. The official match ball made by Adidas for the 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup is _____.

- A) Al Rihla
- B) Allen
- C) Duplo T
- D) Tiento

63. According to the El Dorado Weather Report Kayes city of which country became the hottest place in the world?

- A) Kenya
- B) Mali
- C) Malta
- D) Senegal

64. When the World Autism Awareness Day was observed?

- A) 04 April
- B) 03 April
- C) 02 April
- D) 01 April

65. To transmit court orders swiftly which of the following software was launched by Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana?

- A) FASTER
- B) QUICKER
- C) SMARTER
- D) VIRTUAL

66. For strengthening information exchange between the two regulators which organisation has signed an agreement with the IRDAI?

- A) IFSCA
- B) SIDBI
- C) EXIM
- D) NABARD

67. 'Shakuntala' India's first private commercial imaging satellite was launched by which of the following aerospace company?

- A) AgniKul Cosmos
- B) Bellatrix Aerospace
- C) Boeing
- D) Pixxel

68. Who among the following took charge as the Director-General of the Geological Survey of India?

- A) Sanjay Jain

- B) S. Raju
- C) S. Garkhal
- D) Ravi Kumar

69. Who among the following was roped in as the brand ambassador of PharmEasy?

- A) Aamir Khan
- B) Amitabh Bachchan
- C) Siddharth Malhotra
- D) Vidya Balan

70. Who among the following was named as the Chief of the Army Staff?

- A) Lieutenant General Raj Shukla
- B) Lieutenant General R. K. S. Bhadauria
- C) Lieutenant General Manoj Pande
- D) Lieutenant General M. M. Naravane

71. When the International Day of Mine Awareness was observed?

- A) 04 April
- B) 03 April
- C) 02 April
- D) 01 April

72. Carlos Alcaraz Garfia of which country defeated Casper Ruud to win the men's singles title at the Miami Open 2022?

- A) Australia
- B) Canada
- C) Denmark
- D) Spain

73. Who among the following has won the women's singles title at the Miami Open 2022?

- A) Danielle Collins
- B) Simona Halep
- C) Iga Swiatek
- D) Aryna Sabalenka

74. Gangaur festival was recently celebrated in which of the following states?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Tripura
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Manipur

75. India has signed four MoUs for cooperation and agreed to expand bilateral trade with which of the following country?

- A) Hungary
- B) Malta
- C) Tajikistan
- D) Turkmenistan

76. At the 64th Annual Grammy Awards in 2022 who among the following bags the Best Children's Music Album category for 'A Colourful World'?

- A) Asha Puthli
- B) Falguni Shah
- C) Kiran Ahluwalia
- D) Rez Abbasi

77. _____ won the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Media Person in 2021.

- A) Aarefa Johari

- B) Nidhi Razdan
- C) Rana Ayyub
- D) Shaili Chopra

78. A new book titled 'Decoding Indian Babudom' was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Ashwini Shrivastava
- B) Mithilesh Tiwari
- C) Srishti Jha
- D) Vikas Kumar

79. Who among the following bags the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022?

- A) India
- B) Australia
- C) Pakistan
- D) England

80. When the World Health Day was celebrated?

- A) 04 April
- B) 05 April
- C) 06 April
- D) 07 April

81. Digital transformation project named 'SMBHAV' was launched by which of the following bank?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) State Bank of Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

82. Murali M. Natrajan was re-appointed by which of the following bank as its MD and CEO?

- A) DCB Bank
- B) Federal Bank
- C) KVB Bank
- D) RBL Bank

83. Who among the following will be awarded the Saraswati Samman 2021?

- A) K. Siva Reddy
- B) Ramdarash Mishra
- C) Sharankumar Limbale
- D) Vasdev Mohi

84. According to the Forbes World's Billionaire List in 2022 who was named the richest person in the world?

- A) Bernard Arnault
- B) Elon Musk
- C) Jeff Bezos
- D) Warren Buffett

85. _____ is the only Indian in the top ten of the Forbes World's Billionaires List in 2022.

- A) Gautam Adani
- B) Mukesh Ambani
- C) Radhakishan Damani
- D) Shiv Nadar

86. India conducted the 9th edition of the joint special forces exercise named 'Khanjar 2022' with which of the following country?

- A) Uzbekistan
- B) Thailand
- C) Kyrgyzstan
- D) Afghanistan

87. Which country has been granted permission to export an additional 325 MW of electricity to India's energy market?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Nepal
- C) Bhutan
- D) Bangladesh

88. Which Indian organisation has recently joined the United Nations Global Compact Network?

- A) Arya.ag
- B) Cogno AI
- C) FluidAI
- D) NanoNets

89. What is the repo rate after the Reserve Bank of India releases its monetary policy for 2022-23?

- A) 3.5%
- B) 3.75%
- C) 4%
- D) 4.25%

90. What is the reverse repo rate after the Reserve Bank of India releases its monetary policy for 2022-23?

- A) 4.50%
- B) 3.75%
- C) 3.5%
- D) 3.35%

91. Who among the following bags the DGC Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship in 2022?

- A) Sharmila Nicollet
- B) Riya Jadon

- C) Lavanya Jadon
- D) Chiragh Kumar

92. International _____ player Jo-Wilfried Tsonga has announced his retirement.

- A) Tennis
- B) Golf
- C) Football
- D) Cricket

93. When did the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its Valour Day?

- A) 06 April
- B) 07 April
- C) 08 April
- D) 09 April

94. This year government is celebrating which edition of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) anniversary?

- A) Sixth
- B) Seventh
- C) Fifth
- D) Eighth

95. Airports under Airports Authority of India will provide a platform to self help groups for the promotion of local artisans and products under which of the following scheme?

- A) AVSAR
- B) AVHELP
- C) AIRHEP
- D) AAISHG

96. To find innovative solutions to tackle food loss and wastage which bank has partnered with Social Alpha?

- A) Citibank
- B) DBS Bank India
- C) Standard Chartered
- D) United Overseas Bank

97. Which of the following companies has collaborated with ICICI Bank to provide commercial cashback cards for B2B payments?

- A) Pine Labs
- B) Paytm
- C) KredX
- D) CRED

98. Which of the following organization has successfully flight-tested the SFDR booster missile system at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) Both (A) and (B)
- D) None of the above

99. In the Digital CX Awards 2022, which bank received the award for 'Outstanding Digital CX-SME Payments'?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) State Bank of India

100. Amber Bracken of which country won the World Press Photo of the Year Award 2022?

- A) France

- B) Denmark
- C) Canada
- D) Australia

101. Recently which of the following Indian luxury handbag brand was launched in New York?

- A) Aranyani
- B) Baggit
- C) Caprese
- D) Esbeda

102. To help small farmers in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam which organisation has partnered with French firm Louis Dreyfus Company?

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- C) New Development Bank
- D) World Bank

103. A new deposit scheme named 'Vikas Siri Sampat-1111' was launched by which of the following bank?

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank
- C) Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank
- D) Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank

104. To develop which of the following portal the National Remote Sensing Centre has partnered with the UIDAI?

- A) Ashirwad-Aadhar
- B) Bhuvan-Aadhar
- C) Blue -Aadhar
- D) Green-Aadhar

105. For the distribution of life insurance in rural areas which life insurance firm has partnered with Common Service Centres?

- A) United India Insurance Company
- B) Max Life Insurance Company
- C) Tata AIA Life Insurance
- D) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance

106. Renowned _____, Shiv Kumar Subramaniam passed away at the age of 62?

- A) Actor
- B) Screenwriter
- C) Politician
- D) Both (A) and (B)

107. _____ was appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

- A) Ram Raghavan
- B) Prabha Narasimhan
- C) Manoj Soni
- D) Manish Sharma

108. Which of the following country has won women's doubles title at the World Doubles Squash Championships 2022?

- A) Australia
- B) India
- C) Iran
- D) England

109. When the World Homeopathy Day was observed?

- A) 13 April

- B) 10 April
- C) 09 April
- D) 08 April

110. The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the Atal Innovation Mission till_____.

- A) April 2024
- B) March 2023
- C) January 2023
- D) December 2022

111. DRDO, Indian Army and Indian Air Force has jointly flight-tested which of the following anti-tank guided missile?

- A) Nirbhay
- B) Helina
- C) Astra
- D) Akash

112. A new satellite named 'Gaofen-3 03' was successfully launched by which of the following country for the observation of the Earth?

- A) China
- B) France
- C) India
- D) Pakistan

113. _____was appointed as the Member Board Representative of the ICC Cricket Committee.

- A) Malcolm Gray
- B) Jay Shah
- C) Imran Khwaja
- D) Geoff Allardice

114. United Nations Human Rights Council has appointed who among the following as the world's first independent expert on human rights and climate change?

- A) Franklin Jacob
- B) Greg Laurie
- C) Ian Fry
- D) John Hagee

115. International Cricket Council (ICC) has voted who among the following as the Women's Player of the Month for March 2022?

- A) Alyssa Healy
- B) Amelia Kerr
- C) Kathryn Bryce
- D) Rachael Haynes

116. The first 'Made in India' Dornier 228 aircraft flagged off by the Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia at which of the following state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Karnataka

117. In the Phase II of 'Svanidhi Se Samridhi' programme how many more cities were added?

- A) 152
- B) 142
- C) 126
- D) 123

118. To support urban development in Nagaland which organisation has provided a \$ 2 million loan?

A) Asian Development Bank

B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

C) New Development Bank

D) World Bank

119. To promote the special economic zone which bank has signed an MoU with GIFT SEZ?

A) Canara Bank

B) HDFC Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) UCO Bank

120. To leverage cloud and AI to redefine its customer experience which company has partnered with Microsoft?

A) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

B) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

121. Which of the following country bags the FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022?

A) Australia

B) Belgium

C) Germany

D) The Netherlands

122. When the World Art Day was observed?

A) 18 April

B) 17 April

C) 15 April

D) 14 April

123. Which of the following state will celebrate 14 April as 'Equality Day' in memory of Dr B. R. Ambedkar?

A) Gujarat

B) Haryana

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Tamil Nadu

124. India's first-ever community museum inaugurated in which of the following state/UT?

A) Meghalaya

B) Ladakh

C) Jammu and Kashmir

D) Himachal Pradesh

125. For India's first bullet train project which country is set to send modified trains suitable for Indian weather conditions?

A) China

B) France

C) Germany

D) Japan

126. Indian Coast Guard commissioned the latest Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III squadron at_____.

A) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

B) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

C) Hyderabad, Telangana

D) Bhubaneswar, Odisha

127. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities?

- A) Iqbal Singh Lalpura
- B) M. Manoj Ahuja
- C) T. S. Ramakrishnan
- D) Vineet Chopra

128. Divyanka Tripathi was awarded by which of the following state government with the Champion of Change Award 2021?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Haryana
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Odisha

129. A new book titled 'Hear Yourself' was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Anita Desai
- B) Anirudh Suri
- C) Prem Rawat
- D) Amish Tripathi

130. Which of the following countries will host the Commonwealth Games in 2026?

- A) Australia
- B) England
- C) France
- D) India

131. Who among the following bags the silver medal in the Men's Singles of Orleans Masters 2022 Badminton tournament?

- A) Lakshya Sen
- B) Mithun Manjunath
- C) Srikanth Kidambi

- D) Toma Junior Popov

132. When the World Voice Day was observed?

- A) 16 April
- B) 17 April
- C) 18 April
- D) 14 April

133. To develop green hydrogen technologies which state government has partnered with NHPC?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

134. Between 2011 to 2019 how much points extreme poverty in India was declined according to World Bank Policy Research Working Paper?

- A) 16.4%
- B) 14.3%
- C) 12.8%
- D) 12.3%

135. In 2022, which country was elected to four Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) bodies of the United Nations?

- A) Australia
- B) Canada
- C) Germany
- D) India

136. Humanitarian activist Bilquis Edhi of which country has passed away?

- A) Pakistan

- B) Oman
- C) India
- D) Afghanistan

137. Who won the gold medal in the 200 m Butterfly event at the Danish Open Swimming tournament 2022?

- A) Vedaant Madhavan
- B) Srihari Nataraj
- C) Sandeep Sejwal
- D) Sajan Prakash

138. The First Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery tournament was held at_____.

- A) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B) Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
- C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

139. When the World Heritage Day was observed?

- A) 19 April
- B) 18 April
- C) 17 April
- D) 16 April

140. When the World Liver Day was observed?

- A) 19 April
- B) 18 April
- C) 17 April
- D) 16 April

141. Who among the following took charge as Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)?

- A) Dalbir Singh Suhag

- B) Karambir Singh
- C) M. M. Naravane
- D) Manoj Pande

142. Who among the following got one-year extension as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission?

- A) A. S. Kumari
- B) Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
- C) N. Chandrasekaran
- D) S. L. Narayanan

143. For its Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH) initiative which bank won the global 'Celent Model Bank' Award?

- A) IndusInd Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Axis Bank

144. Where did the Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2022 was held?

- A) Australia
- B) India
- C) Kazakhstan
- D) Mongolia

145. Which of the following state hockey team has emerged as the champions of the 12th Senior Hockey Nationals 2022?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Haryana
- D) Gujarat

146. India's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at _____.

- A) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- B) Gurugram, Haryana
- C) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- D) Mumbai, Maharashtra

147. According to the latest IMF report what is the GDP growth projection of India for FY23?

- A) 8.5%
- B) 8.4%
- C) 8.2%
- D) 7.8%

148. To provide skilled talent pool in the insurance sector which of the following has signed an MoU with the IFSCA?

- A) Department of Management Sciences

- B) Life Insurance Corporation
- C) National Institute of Bank Management
- D) National Insurance Academy

149. Who among the following was appointed as the next Director-General of Military Operations?

- A) Lieutenant General Vinod G. Khandare
- B) Lieutenant General Sandeep Singh
- C) Lieutenant General R. Hari Kumar
- D) Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar

150. _____ was appointed as the new MD and CEO of Digit Insurance.

- A) Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- B) Mukesh Kumar Surana
- C) Jasleen Kohli
- D) Dinesh Kumar Khara

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: B

Lakshya Sen has become the first Indian male after Pullela Gopichand in 2001 to win a silver medal at the All-England Open Badminton Championships in 2022.

2. Correct Answer: D

Sri Lanka is set to host the 2022 Asia Cup T20 tournament from August 27, 2022 to September 11, 2022.

3. Correct Answer: D

Hyderabad FC has clinched their maiden Indian Super League title after defeating Kerala Blasters.

4. Correct Answer: C

On 22 March the world celebrates World Water Day every year.

5. Correct Answer: C

Pramod Sawant has sworn in as the Chief Minister of Goa for the second consecutive term.

6. Correct Answer: B

Rating agency Fitch has slashed India's GDP growth forecast for FY23 to 8.5 per cent from 10.3 per cent.

7. Correct Answer: D

Walmart-owned fintech firm PhonePe said that it has acquired GigIndia, the country's leading network for freelance micro-entrepreneurs.

8. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched a new inter-disciplinary Water Management and Policy Centre called AquaMAP.

9. Correct Answer: B

Indian Institute of Technology - Madras (IIT-M) has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to launch M. Tech in industrial artificial intelligence.

10. Correct Answer: C

For the second consecutive year New Delhi has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city as per IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report.

11. Correct Answer: C

Kerala is set to become the first State in India to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations.

12. Correct Answer: A

Nagaland has become India's 1st Legislative Assembly to successfully implement National e-Vidhan project.

13. Correct Answer: A

The 3rd edition of the joint training exercise between India's and Uzbekistan's armies - EX-DUSTLIK – was held in Uzbekistan's Yangiariq.

14. Correct Answer: D

In line with its focus on responsible banking, DBS Bank India has announced the launch of its Green Deposit Programme for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally-friendly projects.

15. Correct Answer: C

Paytm Payment Gateway has launched a first-of-its-kind service called 'Payment Analytics' to help SMEs make data-driven decisions.

16. Correct Answer: D

The 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) was held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

17. Correct Answer: B

The World Bank has issued the world's first wildlife conservation bond, raising \$150 million to help efforts to increase the endangered black rhino population in South Africa.

18. Correct Answer: B

Malaysia will host armed forces from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise.

19. Correct Answer: C

Financial services company FinMapp said it has received licence from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension Scheme (NPS) to sell NPS, insurance.

20. Correct Answer: A

ICICI Bank has announced that it has launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

21. Correct Answer: B

Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, has won the Governor of the year award at the Central Banking Awards 2022.

22. Correct Answer: C

Steve Wilhite the inventor of GIF has passed away recently at the age of 74.

23. Correct Answer: D

This year, the theme of World Tuberculosis Day is “invest to End TB. Save Lives.”

24. Correct Answer: C

Bihar has become the first state in the country to introduce the concept of the dynamic map for villages.

25. Correct Answer: D

Kerala Tourism has launched 24x7 WhatsApp chatbot 'Maya' to enable tourists get information and updates on tourism eco system in the State.

26. Correct Answer: D

Lieutenant General Vinod G. Khandare has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence

27. Correct Answer: B

Rajnish Kumar, the former Chairman of State Bank of India has joined data & analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet's International Strategic Advisory Board.

28. Correct Answer: B

President Ram Nath Kovind has awarded the prestigious President's Colour to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

29. Correct Answer: A

The Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO) agreed to establish the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat's Jamnagar.

30. Correct Answer: C

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur that the state government has signed a MoU with the National

Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali as the knowledge partner for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh area of Solan district.

31. Correct Answer: A

Shashi Sinha, chief executive officer at IPG Mediabrands India, has been appointed as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India.

32. Correct Answer: D

Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as chairman of the Payments Council of India (PCI).

33. Correct Answer: A

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mukesh Kumar Jain, former MD & CEO of the erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), as Member in the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).

34. Correct Answer: B

The Karnataka Governor has appointed Justice K N Phaneendra as the new Upa Lokayukta of the state after a gap of nearly two years.

35. Correct Answer: C

According to the report released by NITI Aayog Gujarat ranked No. 1 in the Export Preparedness Index 2021 for the second time in a row.

36. Correct Answer: C

The Sri Lankan navy and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) has signed an agreement for the construction of the floating dock.

37. Correct Answer: C

HDFC Mutual Fund, the country's third largest asset manager, has launched India's first defence fund.

38. Correct Answer: B

Max Life Insurance has partnered with PhonePe to offer financial protection to consumers.

39. Correct Answer: A

Kalyan Jewellers India Limited, one of India's largest jewellery companies has appointed Vinod Rai as its Chairman.

40. Correct Answer: D

Will Smith bags the Best Actor Award at the 94th Academy Awards in 2022.

41. Correct Answer: A

A two-week long joint military exercise named 'Balikatan 2022' was conducted between US and Philippines.

42. Correct Answer: C

Former Prime Minister of Togo Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo has been elected as the new Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

43. Correct Answer: C

Ratings agency ICRA has lowered India's FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7.2 per cent from an earlier projection of 8 per cent.

44. Correct Answer: C

Ministry of Defence has signed an MoU, with Larsen & Toubro Ltd. for acquisition of Two Multi-Purpose Vessels.

45. Correct Answer: B

A Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti was inaugurated at IIT Kharagpur.

46. Correct Answer: A

India won two medals at the World Table Tennis Contender 2022 Championship Doha, Qatar.

47. Correct Answer: D

The Konkan Railway has accomplished the 'Mission 100 percent electrification'.

48. Correct Answer: A

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has inaugurated the varnika ink manufacturing unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) in Mysuru, Karnataka.

49. Correct Answer: C

Assam and Meghalaya state government has signed a pact to end border dispute in six contested areas.

50. Correct Answer: A

The Democratic Republic of Congo has joined the East African Community (EAC) as its 7th member.

51. Correct Answer: C

The World Piano Day 2022 was celebrated on 29 March around the world.

52. Correct Answer: D

Indian cricketer Virat Kohli has retained his spot as the celebrity with the highest brand value at \$185.7 million, as per the Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report, 2021.

53. Correct Answer: D

India is ranked at 4th place in the 'Hurun global U-40 self-made billionaires 2022'.

54. Correct Answer: A

Grandmaster and national champion Arjun Erigaisi have won the title of the 19th Delhi International Chess Tournament.

55. Correct Answer: C

The first edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was conducted at Goa and in Arabian Sea from 26 – 30 March 2022.

56. Correct Answer: B

Karnataka Bank has opened a 'Digi Centre' in Mangaluru and it was inaugurated by the Chief Business Officer, Gokuldas Pai.

57. Correct Answer: C

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has lowered India's GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2022-23 to 7-7.2% from its earlier prediction of 7.6%.

58. Correct Answer: A

Central Bank of India has partnered with Kwik.ID to implement digital Know Your Customer (KYC), video KYC and eKYC for its network across India.

59. Correct Answer: A

Google Pay has teamed up with Pine Labs to launch 'Tap to Pay' feature for UPI which will allow users to make payments seamlessly via UPI without using their cards.

60. Correct Answer: B

HDFC Bank and Shoppers Stop has announced the launch of a new range of co-branded credit cards for 80 lakh "First Citizen" customers of the retail chain along with the bank's customers.

61. Correct Answer: A

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and HSBC India have signed an agreement to set up a \$ 100 million partial

guarantee programme for microfinance institutions in India.

62. Correct Answer: A

Sportswear company Adidas has launched Al Rihla the official match ball for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

63. Correct Answer: B

According to El Dorado Weather, Kayes, Mali, has become the hottest spot on earth on 05 April, with 44.4 degrees Celsius.

64. Correct Answer: C

Every year World Autism Awareness Day is observed on April 2 around the world.

65. Correct Answer: A

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has launched "Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records" (FASTER) software to transmit court orders swiftly and securely through electronic mode.

66. Correct Answer: A

Global financial services watchdog IFSCA has signed an agreement with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for strengthening information exchange between the two regulators.

67. Correct Answer: D

Bengaluru-Based space technology startup Pixxel has launched India's first private commercial imaging satellite named 'Shakuntala'.

68. Correct Answer: B

Dr.S. Raju has been appointed as the Director-General of the Geological Survey of India.

69. Correct Answer: A

Consumer healthcare 'super app' PharmEasy, has appointed bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as the brand ambassador of its latest campaign.

70. Correct Answer: C

Army Vice Lieutenant General Manoj Pande is all set to become Chief of the Army Staff with incumbent Army Chief General M.M. Naravane, seen as the frontrunner for the Chief of Defence Staff's post, is due to retire by the end of this month.

71. Correct Answer: A

Every year, International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on April 04.

72. Correct Answer: D

18-year-old Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz Garfia has defeated Casper Ruud to win the men's singles title at the Miami Open 2022.

73. Correct Answer: C

In the final match to claim the 2022 Miami Open tennis tournament Polish tennis star Iga Swiatek defeated Naomi Osaka of Japan by 6-4, 6-0.

74. Correct Answer: C

Gangaur is a festival celebrated in the Indian state of Rajasthan. Honouring Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, Gangaur Festival is a celebration of marital bond and prosperous life.

75. Correct Answer: D

India and Turkmenistan had signed four agreements, including in financial intelligence and disaster management, as President Ram Nath Kovind met his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov in Ashgabat and agreed to expand bilateral trade and

energy cooperation to further strengthen the multifaceted partnership.

76. Correct Answer: B

Indian American singer Falguni Shah won Best Children's Music Album for 'A Colourful World' at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards in 2022.

77. Correct Answer: A

Mumbai-based journalist Aarefa Johari was awarded the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Media person 2021.

78. Correct Answer: A

Ashwini Shrivastava has authored a new book titled 'Decoding Indian Babudom'.

79. Correct Answer: B

Australia has won a record-extending 7th Women's World Cup title after defeating England in the final.

80. Correct Answer: D

World Health Day is celebrated on 07 April annually.

81. Correct Answer: D

Union Bank of India launched its super-app named UnionNXT and digital transformation project SMBHAV, with an investment outlay of around Rs 1,000 crore for the current financial year 2022-23 (FY23).

82. Correct Answer: A

The DCB Bank said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Murali M Natrajan as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank for a further period of two years.

83. Correct Answer: B

Noted poet and litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2021, for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun', the KK Birla Foundation announced in a statement.

84. Correct Answer: B

Elon Musk is leading the Forbes billionaires list with a net worth of \$219 billion, followed by Amazon chief Jeff Bezos at \$171 billion.

85. Correct Answer: B

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries is the only Indian in the top ten of the Forbes World's Billionaires List in 2022.

86. Correct Answer: C

The 9th Edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise named 'Khanjar 2022' was held in March-April, 2022 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (HP).

87. Correct Answer: B

Nepal has received permission to export an additional 325 MW of electricity to the energy market in India, taking the total electricity export to 364 MW.

88. Correct Answer: A

An integrated grain commerce platform Arya.ag, has joined the United Nations Global Compact India, voluntarily adhering to universal sustainability principles and taking actions to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

89. Correct Answer: C

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent.

90. Correct Answer: D

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das kept the reverse repo rate unchanged at 3.35 per cent.

91. Correct Answer: B

Riya Jadon won the DGC Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship 2022.

92. Correct Answer: A

Former world No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga has announced he will retire from professional tennis after next month's French Open.

93. Correct Answer: D

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its 57th Valour Day on 09 April 2022.

94. Correct Answer: B

This year government is celebrating seventh edition of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) anniversary.

95. Correct Answer: A

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has launched an initiative "AVSAR" to encourage the talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities.

96. Correct Answer: B

DBS Bank India has partnered with Social Alpha to find innovative solutions to tackle food loss and wastage.

97. Correct Answer: C

Finance company KredX has partnered with ICICI Bank to offer 'ICICI Bank-KredX Commercial Card', for B2B payments.

98. Correct Answer: B

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight-tested the SFDR booster missile system at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha.

99. Correct Answer: B

A mobile app for merchants of IndusInd Bank, 'Indus Merchant Solutions' got the 'Outstanding Digital CX-SME Payments' in the Digital CX Awards 2022.

100. Correct Answer: C

Canadian photojournalist Amber Bracken bags the World Press Photo of the Year Award 2022.

101. Correct Answer: A

Aranyani, an Indian luxury handbag brand was launched in New York at the Consulate General of India.

102. Correct Answer: A

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has partnered with French firm Louis Dreyfus Company for a \$ 100 million loan pact to help small farmers in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam.

103. Correct Answer: B

Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank P. Gopi Krishna has launched a new deposit scheme of the bank, Vikas Siri Sampat-1111.

104. Correct Answer: B

An MoU has been signed between the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and National Remote Sensing Centre to develop 'Bhuvan-Aadhar portal' which will provide information and locations of the aadhaar centres across India.

105. Correct Answer: C

As part of its effort to deliver much-needed life insurance protection cover in rural areas, Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd has partnered with Common Services Centres under the Ministry of Electronics & IT.

106. Correct Answer: D

Actor-screenwriter Shiv Kumar Subramaniam has passed away at the age of 62.

107. Correct Answer: C

Manoj Soni has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

108. Correct Answer: B

India won its maiden women's doubles title at the World Doubles Squash Championships 2022. Dipika Pallikal has won the women's and mixed doubles titles with Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal, respectively at the World Doubles Squash Championships 2022.

109. Correct Answer: B

The World Homeopathy Day is celebrated each year on April 10 to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine.

110. Correct Answer: B

Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) till March 2023.

111. Correct Answer: B

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) jointly conducted the successful flight test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'.

112. Correct Answer: A

China successfully launched a new satellite named 'Gaofen-3 03' for the observation of the Earth.

113. Correct Answer: B

BCCI secretary Jay Shah has been appointed as the Member Board Representative of the ICC Cricket Committee.

114. Correct Answer: C

Dr Ian Fry has been appointed as the world's first independent expert on human rights and climate change by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

115. Correct Answer: D

Australia opener Rachael Haynes has been voted as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2022.

116. Correct Answer: B

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off the first flight of Made in India HAL Dornier Do-228 to link airports as well as Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) of India's Northeast region.

117. Correct Answer: C

Considering the success of Phase I, the ministry launched the programme expansion to additional 126 cities with an aim to cover 28 lakh street vendors and their families, with a total target of 20 lakh scheme sanctions for FY 2022-23.

118. Correct Answer: A

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed an agreement to provide a \$2 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan to Nagaland for the design of climate-resilient urban infrastructure.

119. Correct Answer: C

ICICI Bank and GIFT SEZ at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote the special economic zone to Indian as well as global businesses.

120. Correct Answer: A

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has partnered with Microsoft to leverage cloud and AI to redefine its customer experience.

121. Correct Answer: D

The Netherlands clinched FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup champions after beating Germany in final.

122. Correct Answer: C

World Art Day is celebrated every year on April 15.

123. Correct Answer: D

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced that Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the father of Indian constitution, will be honoured by the celebration of his birth anniversary on April 14 as the 'Day of Equality'.

124. Correct Answer: B

In Ladakh, a community museum opened in the Gya – Sasoma villages of the Leh district to preserve and promote the region's rich cultural history.

125. Correct Answer: D

Japan is set to send modified trains suitable for Indian weather conditions for India's first bullet train project.

126. Correct Answer: D

The Indian Coast Guard commissioned the latest Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III squadron at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

127. Correct Answer: A

Former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities.

128. Correct Answer: C

Madhya Pradesh state government has awarded Actress Divyanka Tripathi with the Champion of Change Award 2021.

129. Correct Answer: C

Prem Rawat has authored a new book titled 'Hear Yourself'.

130. Correct Answer: A

Victoria in Australia is set to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

131. Correct Answer: B

Indian badminton player Mithun Manjunath settles for silver medal after losing to Toma Junior Popov of France at the Orleans Masters 2022 men's singles event.

132. Correct Answer: A

Each year, World Voice Day is celebrated on April 16.

133. Correct Answer: C

Himachal Pradesh government has partnered with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) to develop green hydrogen technologies.

134. Correct Answer: D

Between 2011 to 2019 extreme Poverty in India has declined 12.3% according to World Bank Policy Research Working Paper.

135. Correct Answer: D

India has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) four major bodies.

136. Correct Answer: A

Pakistani philanthropist and humanitarian Bilquis Bano Edhi passed away at a Karachi hospital at the age of 74.

137. Correct Answer: D

Ace Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash has won the gold medal in the 200 m Butterfly event at the Danish Open Swimming tournament 2022.

138. Correct Answer: B

The first Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery tournament was held in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

139. Correct Answer: B

Every year April 18 is observed as World Heritage Day.

140. Correct Answer: A

World liver day is observed on every 19 April, to spread awareness about liver related disease.

141. Correct Answer: D

Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the new Chief of Army Staff.

142. Correct Answer: B

The government has granted an extension of one year to Atomic Energy Commission chairman Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas.

143. Correct Answer: A

IndusInd Bank bags global 'Celent Model Bank' Award for its Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH) initiative.

144. Correct Answer: D

India finished with 17 medals, one gold, five silver and eleven bronze, at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2022 held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

145. Correct Answer: C

Haryana state hockey team were emerged as the champions of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship by beating Tamil Nadu 3-1 in the shootout.

146. Correct Answer: A

India's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

147. Correct Answer: C

In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the IMF forecast India's GDP to grow by 8.2% in FY23 (2023-24).

148. Correct Answer: D

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has signed an MoU with the National Insurance Academy to provide skilled talent pool in the insurance sector.

149. Correct Answer: D

Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar has been appointed as the next Director-General of Military Operations.

150. Correct Answer: C

Jasleen Kohli has been appointed as new MD and CEO of Digit Insurance.

SECTION 3



Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

India to export Wheat



Russia and Ukraine account for about 25% of the world’s wheat exports. However, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent Western sanctions against Moscow have curtailed wheat supplies drastically.

India eyeing the global wheat basket

- As a result of the war, many countries that formerly relied only on these two countries for wheat are now in desperate need of alternatives.
- India, the world's second-largest wheat producer after China, is said to be interested in filling the hole.
- To take advantage of the greater price of wheat on the international market, the government intends to authorise increased exports.
- A large crop is forecast this year, as the harvesting season (March to May) coincides with the supply shortage.

Global wheat scenario

- Between 2017 and 2021, Russia and Ukraine exported 183 million tonnes (MT) and 91 MT of wheat, respectively, while India exported only a fraction of its output, or 12.6 MT.

- The European Union (157 MT), the United States (125 MT), Canada (112 MT), and Australia (112 MT) accounted for the majority of wheat exports during this time period (83 MT).
- India, which had the second-largest wheat supply (including production, existing inventories, and imports) in this era at 613 million tonnes, only exported 2% of it, with the remainder consumed domestically and stored.

Impact of the war

- Many African, West Asian, and Southeast Asian countries are primarily reliant on Russian and Ukrainian wheat.
- Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer, gets 93 percent of its wheat from its Eastern European neighbours. Indonesia, the world's second-largest importer, is 30 percent reliant on these two countries.
- Sudan (60 percent reliance), Tanzania (64 percent reliance), Libya (53 percent reliance), Tunisia (52 percent reliance), and West Asian countries such as Lebanon (77 percent reliance), Yemen (50 percent reliance), and the UAE (42 percent reliance) are all highly reliant on supplies from the two neighbours at war.

India’s focus markets

- Many countries, including Egypt, Turkey, Nigeria, Algeria, West Asia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Philippines, Morocco, and Tanzania, are currently focusing on wheat exports from India.
- APEDA has formed a task force to promote wheat exports while also focusing on the

obstacles and bottlenecks that occur during production and export.

Legal hurdles over Wheat Exports

- Some industrialised countries may file complaints at the World Trade Organization if India decides to export wheat from its reserves.
- India has already been accused of exporting grains from its stocks in March.
- India responded that its rice exports did not come from supplies held in reserve under public stockholding programmes.

India's consideration

- In the Right to Food case, the Supreme Court stated that the peace provision agreed at the WTO's Bali Ministerial in 2014 did not preclude India from exporting foodgrains.
- With the buffer stockpiles in place, India should raise wheat exports to help stabilise global prices as much as possible.
- It's also significant because countries that formerly relied on Russia and Ukraine for wheat are exploring for alternatives.

Way ahead

- Before deciding on the volume of exports, it is necessary to prioritise local prices and assure appropriate supply for home use.
- The Indian government should make ensuring price stability and availability of grain for internal consumption a top priority.
- This transfer should be planned in such a way that it has no negative influence on local consumption.
- Wheat is predicted to produce a bumper crop, allowing the government to meet its distribution and buffer needs.

- Furthermore, because there are now no export limitations, farmers can benefit from increased prices by selling surplus crops to private traders for export.

What are Oil Bonds?

As retail prices of gasoline, diesel, and other petroleum products have risen over the last year, the government has come under fire.

The Finance Minister has responded to such criticism by stating that the current government is unable to reduce taxes (and, as a result, prices) because it must pay back the previous regime's oil debts.

What are oil bonds?

- An oil bond is an IOU (I owe you) or a promissory note provided by the government to OMCs in lieu of cash, so that these firms do not charge the public the full price of fuel.
- According to an oil bond, the government will pay the oil marketing company Rs 1,000 crore in ten years.
- And, to make up for the OMC's lack of cash right away, the government would pay it an annual interest rate of 8% (or Rs 80 crore) until the bond matures.
- Thus, by issuing such oil bonds, the current government is able to protect/subsidize consumers without jeopardising the OMC's profits or incurring a large budget deficit.

Why were they issued?

- When domestic customers' fuel prices were excessively high, governments frequently asked oil marketing companies (OMCs) to avoid charging them the full price.
- However, if oil corporations are not paid, they will lose money.

- To compensate for this, the government announced that it would pay the difference.
- However, paying that amount in cash would have been futile because the government would have had to tax the same people in order to gather the money to pay the OMCs.
- Here's where oil bonds come into play.

How much of fuel prices is tax?

- The domestic retail price is made up of two parts: the price of crude oil and the taxes levied on that price.
- They add up to produce the retail price.
- Taxes differ depending on the goods. For example, taxes currently account for 50% of the total retail price of a litre of petrol and 44% of the total retail price of a litre of diesel.

How much of the UPA-era oil bonds has the NDA government paid back?

TABLE 1

OIL BONDS NDA INHERITED

| DETAILS (INTEREST RATE, DATE OF MATURITY) | PRINCIPAL (₹ cr) |
|---|--------------------|
| 7.61% GOI spl. Bonds,2015* | 1,750.00 |
| 7.59% GOI spl. Bonds,2015* | 1,750.00 |
| 8.13% GOI spl. Bonds,2021* | 5,000.00 |
| 7.75% GOI spl. Bonds,2021* | 5,000.00 |
| 8.20% GOI spl. Bonds,2023 | 22,000.00 |
| 8.01% GOI spl. Bonds,2023 | 4,150.00 |
| 8.20% GOI spl. Bonds,2024 | 5,000.00 |
| 8.20% GOI spl. Bonds,2024 | 10,306.33 |
| 6.35% GOI spl. Bonds,2024 | 22,000.00 |
| 7.95% GOI spl. Bonds,2025 | 11,256.92 |
| 8.40% GOI spl. Bonds,2025 | 9,296.92 |
| 8.40% GOI spl. Bonds,2026 | 4,971.00 |
| 6.90% GOI spl. Bonds,2026 | 21,942.00 |
| 8.00% GOI spl. Bonds,2026 | 10,000.00 |
| TOTAL | 1,34,423.17 |

*These bonds have been paid in full (total paid ₹13,500 crore)

Source (Table 1 & Chart 1): Union Budgets, Express Research

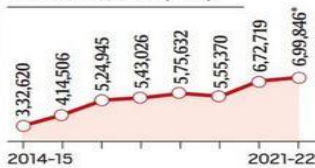
CHART 1

ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENT ON OIL BONDS (₹ cr)



CHART 2

CONTRIBUTION OF OIL SECTOR TO EXCHEQUER (₹ cr)



*Provisional Source: PPAAC, Express Research

- By issuing such bonds, a government can postpone full payment for 5, 10, or 20 years, and only pay interest during that time.
- Table 1 shows that the NDA administration entirely paid off four sets of oil bonds totaling Rs 13,500 crore between 2015 and 2021.
- The BJP government had to pay the interest rate on all bonds that had not matured each year. The amount spent for interest payments each year is depicted in Chart 1.
- The government has have to spend a total of Rs 93,686 crore on interest and principal between 2014 and 2022.

Still, isn't it a bad idea to issue such bonds?

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was correct in observing that issuing bonds only shifted the burden to future generations.
- The majority of the government's borrowing, however, is in the form of bonds.
- This is why the fiscal deficit (basically the amount of money borrowed from the market by the government) is closely monitored each year.
- Furthermore, in a country as small as India, all governments are required to employ bonds in some form.
- Take the present NDA administration, which has issued Rs 2.79 lakh crore in bonds to recapitalize public sector banks (double the value of oil bonds).
- Governments will pay these bonds until 2036.

Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs)

- Oil bonds include two parts that must be paid off: an annual interest payment and a final payment at the end of the bond's term.



The government is reportedly considering a regulatory framework for special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) to lay the ground for the possible listing of Indian companies through this route in the future.

What are SPACs?

- An SPAC, or a blank-cheque company, is a legal entity created with the sole purpose of acquiring a company in a given industry.
- They want to raise money through an IPO without having any activities or earnings.
- The funds obtained from the general public are held in an escrow account that can be accessed during the acquisition process.
- The SPAC is delisted and the money is refunded to the investors if the acquisition is not completed within two years after the IPO.
- While SPACs are essentially shell businesses, the people who sponsor them are a major feature that attracts investors.
- Famous people from all across the world have taken part in SPACs.

Why in news?

- The Company Law Committee, according to reports, was established in 2019 to give recommendations to improve the ease of doing business in India.

- This suggestion was made in a recent report submitted to the government by this committee regarding SPACs.
- SPACs have been around for about a decade, and various investors and company promoters have used them to go public with their investments.
- The vehicle gained traction in 2020, a record year for SPAC trades, which was surpassed in 2021.

Where does India stand?

- ReNew Power, a renewable energy company, announced an agreement to merge with RMG Acquisition Corp II, a blank-cheque company, early last year.
- During the recent SPAC boom, this was the first acquisition involving an Indian company.
- Currently, the Indian regulatory system prohibits the formation of blank check corporations.
- The Companies Act of 2013 states that if a business does not begin operations within a year after incorporation, the Registrar of Companies has the authority to strike it off.

Risk factors around SPACs

- The increased number of investor firms looking for SPACs and then target enterprises has tipped the scales in favour of investee firms.
- This might conceivably reduce returns for retail investors after the merger.
- If no merger is made within two years, SPACs are required to refund money to their investors.
- However, the fine print in several SPAC prospectuses reveals that certain terms may preclude investors from receiving a refund.
- However, this has never happened before in history.

UK to issue Open General Export Licence (OGEL) to India



In the backdrop of the rapid geopolitical turmoil, PM Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson agreed on a new and expanded India-UK defence partnership and vowed to seal an ambitious free trade agreement by the end of the year.

What is the news?

- To cut bureaucracy and shorten delivery times for defence purchases, the UK is introducing an Open General Export Licence (OGEL) for India.
- It plans to collaborate with India on new fighter jet technology as well as maritime threat detection and response.

What is OGEL?

- The open General Licence is a type of licence that is used for government-issued export licences for domestic suppliers.
- The commodities that will be exported from India are divided into three categories. There are three types of items: prohibited, restricted, and freely importable. These classifications are based on the products' nature and intended usage.
- The Department of Defence Production will handle the application processing and granting of OGEL. Each case will have its own procedure.

- The major goal of the OEGL is to increase India's defence exports. This will also make doing business and importing and exporting easier.
- Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Italy, Poland, and Mexico are among the countries allowed under the OGELs.

Items to be exported

- Components of ammunition and fuse setting devices without energetic and explosive material; firing control & related alerting and warning equipment & related system; and body protective goods are among the things approved under OGEL.
- This licence excludes whole aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), as well as any components specifically developed or modified for UAVs.

Indians can now make Payments using UPI in UAE



Tourists or migrants to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with Indian bank accounts will be able to make UPI payments at shops, retail establishments and other merchants in the gulf nation.

What is UPI?

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) facilitating inter-bank transactions.
- The interface is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and works by instantly transferring funds between two bank accounts on a mobile platform.

How does the service work?

- The NPCI and UAE's Mashreq Bank's NEOPAY have partnered for this service
- It will be mandatory for users to have a bank account in India with UPI enabled on it.
- The users will also need an application, like BHIM, to make UPI payments.

Will UPI be accepted everywhere in the UAE?

- Payments using UPI will only be accepted at those merchants and shops which have NEOPAY terminals.

Does NPCI have other such international arrangements?

- For its products, including UPI and RuPay cards, NPCI's overseas branch, NIPL, has various similar agreements with international financial services providers.
- UPI is now recognised in Bhutan and Nepal, and it is expected to launch in Singapore later this year.
- The RBI and the Monetary Authority of Singapore are working on a project to combine UPI with the city-quick state's payment system PayNow.
- The link is expected to be operational by July of this year.

Direct Tax collections surge in FY22



India's net direct tax collections amounted to ₹14,09,640.83 crore for FY22, which is the highest collection ever.

What are Direct Taxes?

- A direct tax is a sort of tax in which the impact and incidence are both included in the same category.
- The tax is paid directly to the entity that imposed the payment by the organisation or an individual.
- The tax must be paid to the government directly and not to anyone else.

Why in news?

- The surge in direct tax collection signals that the Indian economy has bounced back after two years of the pandemic.

Rise in direct tax collection

- Our collection in 2020-21 was only 9.45 lakh crore, compared to 14.09 lakh crore this year.
- The economy has grown by about 4.5 lakh crore in a single year, representing a 49 percent increase.
- In terms of income tax and company tax, the collection is the best it has ever been.

What about direct tax-to-GDP ratio?

- The direct tax-to-GDP ratio is around 12%.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) was working to raise the ratio to 15-20% in 5-10 years.

Why is it significant?

- A tax-to-GDP ratio is a measure of a country's tax revenue in relation to its economy's size as measured by GDP (GDP).
- Because it displays prospective taxes compared to the GDP, the ratio is a valuable tool for analysing a country's tax revenue.
- It also allows for international comparisons of tax collections from other countries, as well as a picture of the overall direction of a country's tax policy.

ECGC to seek RBI nod for payment in forex to exporters



ECGC Ltd., the government enterprise that provides export credit insurance, will soon approach the Reserve Bank of India for approval to deal in foreign currency for the benefit of exporters.

What is ECGC?

- Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd (ECGC) is an acronym for Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.

- It's a government-run export credit agency.
- It is situated in Mumbai and is owned by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It helps Indian exporters with export credit insurance.
- The Chairman and Managing Director, who is a central government civil servant in the ITS cadre, is the company's highest-ranking official.
- In July 1957, the Government of India established the Export Risks Insurance Corporation (ERIC).
- In 1964, it was renamed Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation Limited (ECGC), and in 1983, it was renamed Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India.

Functions of ECGC

- Exporters can get credit risk insurance from ECGC to protect themselves against losses in products and services exports.
- It provides bank and financial organisations with assurances in order for exporters to secure better terms from them.
- It offers Overseas Investment Insurance to Indian enterprises who invest in foreign joint ventures in the form of stock, loan, or loans.

Facilities by ECGC

- It protects exporters from payment risks by providing insurance.
- It offers advice on export-related matters.
- It offers information on many countries available, along with its own credit ratings.
- It makes obtaining export financing from banks and financial institutions much easier.
- It aids exporters in the collection of bad debts.

- It gives creditworthiness information for international buyers.

Environment & Diversity

Conservation of Sacred Grooves



India's sacred groves are being gradually altered due to ever-expanding human populations, pollution and removal of biomass; effective conservation is the need of the hour to maintain their functional values

What are Sacred Grooves?

- Sacred groves in India are forest remnants of various sizes that are communally conserved and have a profound religious significance for the community that protects them.
- It usually has a dense cover of flora, including climbers, herbs, bushes, and trees, as well as a village god and is located near a perennial water source.
- Sacred groves are seen as representations of the early practise of nature worship, and they help to conserve the environment to a large extent.

- The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002 established the protected area category community reserves, which provides government protection to community-owned areas, which could include holy groves.

Historical references

- Temples, monasteries, shrines, pilgrimage destinations, and burial grounds are all common locations for holy woods in India.
- Sacred groves have been mentioned in Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist scriptures throughout history, ranging from sacred tree groves in Hinduism to sacred deer parks in Buddhism.
- Sacred groves is a term that can be used to refer to any natural area that is conserved for religious reasons.
- Other historical references to sacred groves may be found in ancient treatises like Vrukshayurveda and classics like Kalidasa's Vikramuurvashiiya.
- Green patches, such as Nakshatravana, are becoming increasingly popular.

Regulation of activities in Sacred Grooves

- In most cases, hunting and logging are tightly restricted within these areas.
- Other types of forest use, such as honey harvest and deadwood collecting, are occasionally permitted on a long-term basis.

- To safeguard these groves, NGOs collaborate with local residents.
- Members of the community take turns protecting the grove in the past, and in some cases still so now.

Threats to such grooves

- Urbanization and resource overexploitation are two threats to the grooves.
- While many of the groves are revered as the homes of Hindu gods, a few of them have recently been partially destroyed to make way for shrines and temples.

Total grooves in India

- Around 14,000 sacred groves have been documented across India, serving as reservoirs for uncommon fauna and, more commonly, unusual flora, in both rural and urban environments.
- The overall number of sacred groves could be as high as 100,000, according to experts.
- In different states, they are known by different names:
 1. *Sarna* in Bihar
 2. *Dev Van* in Himachal Pradesh
 3. *Devarakadu* in Karnataka
 4. *Kavu* in Kerala
 5. *Dev* in Madhya Pradesh
 6. *Devarahati* or *Devarai* in Maharashtra
 7. *Lai Umang* in Maharashtra
 8. *Law Kyntang* or *Asong Khosi* in Meghalaya
 9. *Oran* in Rajasthan
 10. *Kovil Kadu* or *Sarpa Kavu* in Tamil Nadu

What lies ahead?

- The groves provide a lot of research value for rare, endangered, and threatened plant species in situ conservation.
- It is past time to raise public awareness about the importance of these sacred groves, to prohibit development operations, and to prohibit the felling of trees or the removal of any other vegetation.
- Only by creating a separate law for the conservation and management of sacred groves would this be achievable.
- Because management methods and other rituals differ by state, the concerned state governments may enact legislation that is appropriate for the state.
- In the face of global warming and climate change, the goal should be to safeguard unique, endangered, and threatened plant species.

What is the 'Long Period Average', IMD's benchmark for monsoon prediction?



India is likely to receive a normal monsoon for the fourth consecutive year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its first Long Range Forecast (LRF) for this year.

What is Long Period Average (LPA)?

- In comparison to a baseline "long period average," the IMD predicts a "normal," "below normal," or "above normal" monsoon (LPA).
- The LPA of rainfall is the average rainfall over a long period of time (such as 30 years, 50 years, etc.) for a specified interval (such as month or season).
- The LPA refers to the country's average rainfall from June to September; the amount of rain that falls each year varies from area to region and month to month.
- The IMD's forecast for a normal monsoon is based on the LPA from 1971 to 2020, when India got an average of 87 cm of rain across the country.
- The LPA has previously been calculated at 88 cm for the period 1961-2010 and 89 cm for the period 1951-2000.

Why LPA is needed?

- Rainfall data is collected at around 2,400 locations and 3,500 rain gauge stations by the IMD.
- Because annual rainfall varies significantly not just from region to region and month to month, but also from year to year within a region or month.
- An LPA is required to smooth out tendencies in order to provide a reasonably accurate prediction.
- A 50-year LPA accounts for huge swings in either way due to fluke years of exceptionally high or low rainfall, as well as drought years.
- It also considers the increased frequency of extreme weather occurrences as a result of climate change.

Range of normal rainfall

The IMD maintains five rainfall distribution categories on an all-India scale. These are:

- When the percentage deviation of actual rainfall is +/-10% of LPA, that is, between 96 and 104 percent of LPA, it is considered normal or near normal.
- When actual rainfall is less than 10% of LPA, or 90-96 percent of LPA, it is considered below normal.
- When actual rainfall is 104-110 percent of LPA, it is above normal.
- When real rainfall falls below 90 percent of LPA, it is considered deficient; when actual rainfall falls beyond 110 percent of LPA, it is considered excess.

Palli in Jammu becomes India's First Carbon-Neutral Panchayat



Palli village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first panchayat in the country to become carbon-neutral, fully powered by solar energy.

Various feats achieved

- All of the village's records have been digitised, and residents in this 17-kilometer-distance from Jammu can take advantage of all of the Central programmes.
- Palli village has demonstrated how to put PM Modi's Glasgow pledge (Panamrita) into

action, thanks to its energetic and devoted elected leaders who are full of dreams.

- It has demonstrated how the motto Sabka Prayas (everyone's efforts) can be implemented.

What is Carbon Neutrality?

- Carbon neutrality refers to reaching net-zero carbon dioxide emissions or purchasing enough carbon credits to compensate.
- This can be accomplished by either balancing carbon dioxide emissions with their removal (typically through carbon offsetting) or by eliminating emissions from society entirely.
- It is applied to carbon dioxide-emitting processes such as transportation, energy generation, agriculture, and industry.
- Other greenhouse gases, mainly carbon-based, that are measured in terms of their carbon dioxide equivalence are also referred to as carbon neutral.
- The term "net-zero" is becoming more popular as a way to represent a deeper and more thorough commitment to decarbonization and climate action.
- When all greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂-e) are balanced by greenhouse gas removals, your company achieves net-zero emissions.

Methodology

Carbon-neutral status can be achieved in two ways:

- Carbon offsetting is the process of lowering or preventing greenhouse gas emissions, or

removing carbon dioxide from the environment to compensate for emissions elsewhere, by using carbon offsets. When the whole amount of greenhouse gases emitted equals the total amount avoided or eliminated, the two effects cancel out, and the net emissions are 'neutral.'

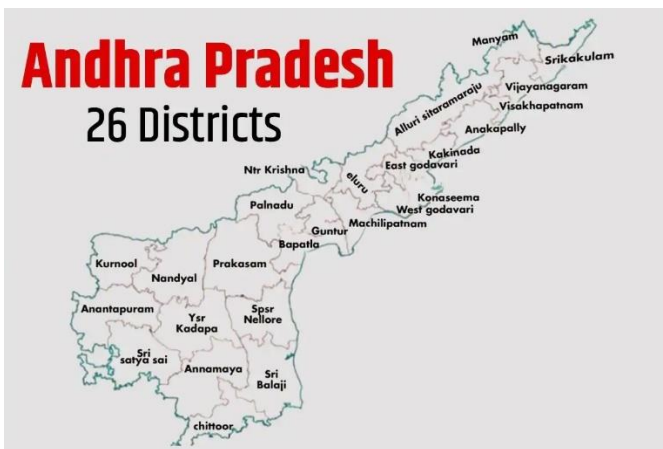
- Reducing carbon emissions can be accomplished by shifting to energy sources and industrial processes that emit less greenhouse gases, resulting in the transition to a low-carbon economy. Shifting away from nuclear power and toward renewable energy sources including hydro, wind, geothermal, and solar power minimises greenhouse gas emissions.

Agreement and Target

- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change is a legally binding international agreement on the subject of climate change. It was accepted by 196 Parties at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris on December 12, 2015, and went into effect on November 4, 2016.
- Its goal is to keep global warming considerably below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably 1.5, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- The Paris Agreement's Article 4.1 calls on governments to achieve global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as practicable.
- It also demands countries to reduce carbon emissions quickly in order to create a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and greenhouse gas removal by sinks.

Governance

13 new districts created in Andhra Pradesh



Andhra Pradesh has got a new map with the creation of 13 new districts, taking the number of total districts in the state to 26.

What are Districts?

- The British Raj left India with districts, which are local administrative entities.
- They are the tier of local administration in India that is directly below the subnational states and territories.
- A district is led by a Deputy Commissioner/Collector, who is in charge of overall administration and law and order enforcement.
- The district collector could be an IAS officer (Indian Administrative Service).
- Depending on the geography, districts are frequently subdivided into smaller administrative divisions known as tehsils, talukas, or mandals.

How are new districts carved?

- State governments have the authority to create new districts, change or abolish existing districts.

- An executive order or a bill passed by the State Assembly can be used to accomplish this.
- Many states opt to go the executive method, which entails simply publishing a notice in the official gazette.

How does it help?

- States argue that smaller districts lead to better administration and governance.
- For example, in 2016, the Assam government issued a notification to upgrade the Majuli sub-division to Majuli district for “administrative expediency”.

Does the Central government have a role to play here?

- The Centre has no say in whether or not districts are changed or new ones are created. States are free to make their own decisions.
- When a state wants to rename a district or a railway station, it must go via the Home Ministry.
- The request is forwarded to various ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Intelligence Bureau, the Department of Posts, the Geographical Survey of India Sciences, and the Railway Ministry, for approval.
- After reviewing their responses, a certificate of no objection may be granted.

E-DAR portal to speed up Accident Compensation Claims



The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has developed the portal named 'e-DAR' (e-Detailed Accident Report).

Why such move?

- Despite our commitment and efforts, road accidents remain the biggest cause of death, disability, and hospitalisation in the country.
- India is #1 among the 199 countries in terms of road accident mortality, accounting for over 11% of all accident-related deaths worldwide.

E-DAR portal

- It was created in collaboration with insurance companies to provide instant information on road accidents with just a few clicks and to assist in the expediting of accident compensation claims, giving relief to victims' families.
- For simple access, digitalized Detailed Accident Reports (DAR) will be uploaded to the portal.
- The Integrated Road Accident Database will be linked to the web portal (iRAD).
- Applications to more than 90% of datasets would be pushed directly to the e-DAR from iRAD.
- Stakeholders such as the police, traffic authorities, hospitals, and others are only required to fill out the e-DAR forms with extremely basic information.
- As a result, e-DAR would be an e-version of iRAD.

Its working

- The portal will be linked to other government portals, such as Vaahan, and will provide access to information on driver's licences and vehicle registration.

- The portal would give geotagging of the specific accident location as well as a site map for the use of investigating officers.
- If the portal is accessed from another location, the investigating officer will be notified of his distance from the scene of the occurrence.
- Photos, video of the accident scene, damaged automobiles, injured people, eyewitnesses, and other information will be instantly uploaded to the Internet.
- Aside from the state police, an engineer from the Public Works Department or a municipal authority will receive an alert on his mobile device, and the official in charge will then inspect the accident scene.

Check on fake claims

- The e-DAR portal would conduct multiple checks against fake claims by conducting a sweeping search of vehicles involved in the accident, the date of accident, and the First Information Report number.

Various moves to curb road accidents

- The MoRTH has taken a number of steps and is continuing to develop a multi-pronged road safety plan.
- It is centred on Education, Engineering, Enforcement, and Emergency Care, and includes activities such as establishing driver training schools, raising awareness, increasing automobile safety standards, enhancing road infrastructure, and conducting road safety audits, among other things.
- The removal of black spots has been given top importance.
- The Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2019, was passed by the Ministry as a major move in the field of road safety.

- It focuses on road safety and includes, for example, increased penalties for traffic offences and electronic monitoring of such violations,

increased penalties for juvenile driving, cashless treatment during the golden hour, and so on.

History

How ancient megalithic jars connect Assam with Laos and Indonesia



The discovery of a number of megalithic stone jars in Assam's Dima Hasao district has brought to focus possible links between India's Northeast and Southeast Asia, dating back to the second millennium BC.

What is the news?

- The jars are a "unique archaeological phenomena," according to a report published in Asian Archaeology.
- More research is needed to understand the "probable cultural relationship" between Assam, Laos, and Indonesia, the only other two locations where identical jars have been discovered.

About the Megalithic Jars

- British civil officers James Philip Mills and John Henry Hutton first saw the Assam jars in 1929.
- They were documented at Derebore (now Hojai Dobongling), Kobak, Kartong, Molongpa (now

Melangpeuram), Ndunglo, and Bolasan in Dima Hasao (now Nuchubunglo).

- In 2016 and 2020, more similar locations were uncovered.
- On spurs, hill slopes, and ridge lines, researchers discovered three distinct jar types (bulbous top with conical end; biconical; cylindrical).

Their significance

- Although the jars have yet to be formally dated, the researchers believe they have similarities to stone jars discovered in Laos and Indonesia.
- The jars recovered at all three locations have typological and morphological similarities.
- Jars were positioned at the sites as early as the late second millennium BC, according to dating done at the Laos site.
- The connection to funeral customs is another lesson, with human skeletal remains discovered within and buried around the jars.
- The function of the jars in Indonesia is unknown, though some historians speculate that they may have served a similar funeral function.

Who was Veer Kunwar Singh (1777-1858)?



Political factions in Bihar has planned to organise the birth anniversary of the 1857 uprising hero Veer Kunwar Singh on April 23 at Jagdishpur in Bhojpur.

Veer Kunwar Singh

- Kunwar Singh, also known as Babu Kunwar Singh, was a prominent figure during the 1857 revolt.
- He was from the Ujjainiya clan of the Parmar Rajputs of Jagdishpur, which is now part of the Bhojpur district of Bihar.

- He led a small group of armed warriors against the British East India Company's army when he was 80 years old.
- He was the mastermind behind the resistance to the British in Bihar.
- Veer Kunwar Singh or Veer Babu Kunwar Singh is his stage name.

Role in 1857 Uprising

- In 1857, Singh led the Indian Rebellion in Bihar. When he was called upon to take up arms, he was about eighty years old and in poor health.
- Both his brother, Babu Amar Singh, and his commander-in-chief, Hare Krishna Singh, aided him.
- For nearly a year, he fought valiantly and harassed British forces, remaining invincible until the end.
- He was a master of the guerrilla warfare technique.

In popular culture

- On April 23, 1966, the Centre released a commemorative stamp to honour his contribution to India's liberation cause.
- In 1992, the Bihar government founded the Veer Kunwar Singh University in Arrah.

International Relations

India extends duration of \$400 mn Currency Swap to SL



India has extended the duration of a \$400 million currency swap facility with Sri Lanka which it had concluded with the island nation in January this year.

What are Currency Swaps?

- A currency swap, often called a cross-currency swap, is an off-balance sheet transaction in which two parties trade capital and interest in different currencies.
- Currency swaps are a method of obtaining foreign currency loans at a lower interest rate than might be obtained by borrowing straight from a foreign market.

Practice question for mains:

Q. What are Currency Swaps? Discuss the efficacy of Currency Swap Agreements for enhancing bilateral cooperation in Indian context.

How does it work?

- In a swap arrangement, the RBI would transfer dollars to a Sri Lankan central bank, which would then provide the RBI with the equal funds in its currency at the time of the transaction, based on the market exchange rate at the time.
- The parties agree to trade these amounts of their respective currencies at a future date, which could be the following day or even three months later, at the same exchange rate as in the original transaction.

- Because the transaction terms are determined in advance, there are no exchange rate or other market risks in these swap operations.

Why does one need dollars?

- FPIs seek safer investments, but the present global anxiety surrounding the COVID outbreak has caused a deficit in global markets.
- Many small and developing countries' foreign exchange reserves have been drained as a result of this.
- This means that the government and the RBI must maintain vigilance in managing the economy and the external balance.

Benefits of currency swap

- The main advantage of such a facility is the absence of exchange rate risk.
- This service gives you the freedom to use these reserves whenever you want to keep your balance of payments or short-term liquidity in check.
- Additional goals of government swaps agreements include promoting bilateral commerce, safeguarding the value of foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank, and ensuring financial stability (protecting the health of the banking system).

Polity

Tripura's Darlong community in included in ST List



The Lok Sabha recently passed a bill to amend a constitutional order to include Darlong, a tribal clan in Tripura which was among the generic Halam community till now, in the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Who are Darlongs?

- Darlong is an 11,000-strong tribal community.
- Despite its small population, the village has a high prevalence of education and cultural activities, and members of the community hold positions of leadership in the local government.
- Despite being Scheduled Tribes, Darlongs were never issued ST certificates.
- They were given tribal certificates as members of the 'Kuki' community because they were deemed a generic tribe under the Kuki community.
- The ensuing identity problem among them, particularly among Darlong youths who had received modern education, culminated in the demand for a separate formal identity in 1995.
- The tribe is a small one, but it has produced a large number of educated people in relation to its size in the state.

- People from the Darlong community, like many other indigenous communities, now hold high-ranking positions in state government, academia, and the public sector.
- Thanga Darlong, a tribal musicologist and Rosem (tribal instrument) virtuoso, received the coveted Padma Shri award for his contribution to culture a few years ago.

Why is tribal identity a big issue in Tripura?

- Nearly 30% of Tripura's 37 lakh residents are tribals, who largely dwell in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council's jurisdiction (TTAADC).
- They are scattered across all eight districts, spanning 70% of the state's land area.
- Due to the influx of East Pakistani refugees fleeing their nation, tribals have become a minority in their own state.
- In Tripura, tribal identity is a huge issue, and it is also one of the primary topics now dominating state politics.
- Greater Tipraland, a proposed independent state for Tiprasa or Tripuris (tribal and non-tribal) living in the state, is gaining popularity.

Goan politician accorded Lifetime Rank of Cabinet Minister



Recently a politician in Goa was accorded the lifetime status of the rank of Cabinet Minister who was, a six-time Chief Minister of Goa and a legislator for a full 50 years. Hence a PIL has been filed in the High Court of Bombay at Goa.

What is the "Lifetime Status of the rank of Cabinet minister"?

- The past Chief Minister and Speaker (of the Goa Legislative Assembly) had served in the legislature for 50 years.
- The Cabinet determined that persons who reach the age of 50 and occupy positions such as CM and Speaker will be awarded Cabinet rank even when they retire in the future.

What is the PIL against this designation?

- The government's notification conferring "lifetime status" on the person was challenged in the PIL, which asked the High Court to overturn it.
- It has been claimed that Goa has a 12-member Cabinet, and that conferring Cabinet membership increases the number of Cabinet positions to 13, exceeding the constitutional limit.
- The 91st Amendment mandated this ceiling in order to prevent bloated Cabinets and the resulting drain on the public coffers.

How the 91st Amendment Act does relates here?

- Clause 1A was added to Article 164 by the Constitution (91st Amendment) Act of 2003.
- It states that the overall number of Ministers in a State's Council of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, should not exceed 15% of the total number of members of that State's Legislative Assembly.

- It stipulated that the number of ministers in a state, including the Chief Minister, must not be less than twelve.
- In the unicameral Goa Assembly, there are 40 seats.

Why is the designation problematic?

- A cabinet minister for life will be entitled to 12 staff members, including OSDs, support staff, peons, and a driver, at a cost of Rs 90 lakh per year to the exchequer.
- The 'Cabinet' status would also entitle him and his spouse to government housing, a vehicle, and limitless free travel.
- This is an example of political appeasement like no other.

Tribes in news: Hattis of Himachal Pradesh



The Centre is set to consider the Himachal Pradesh government's request for inclusion of the Hatti community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in the state.

Who are the Hattis?

- The Hattis are a close-knit society known for selling homegrown vegetables, crops, meat, and wool at local marketplaces known as 'haats' in towns.
- The Hatti community, whose men wear distinctive white headgear during festivities, is

separated from Sirmaur by the Giri and Tons rivers.

- It is separated from the Uttarakhand region of Jaunsar Bawar by tonnes.
- Until Jaunsar Bawar's independence in 1815, the Hattis of the trans-Giri area and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand were part of the royal domain of Sirmaur.
- Hattis in the Kamrau, Sangrah, and Shilliai districts lag behind in education and employment due to topographical obstacles.

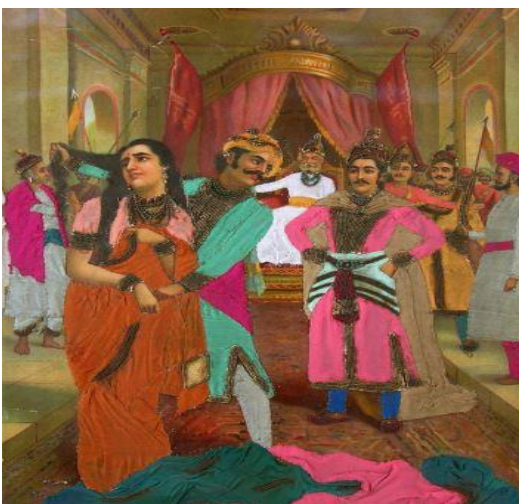
Societal norms of Hattis

- Hattis are administered by a traditional council known as a Khumbli, which, like Haryana's khaps, decides on community issues.
- Despite the establishment of the panchayati raj system, the Khumbli's dominance has remained unquestioned.

- Inter-marriages are widespread between the two clans, which have comparable customs.
- The Hattis have a rather tight caste system, with the Bhat and Khash being the higher castes and the Badhois being the lower castes.
- Inter-caste marriage has long been frowned upon.
- A notified order of the President, after consultation with the State governments involved, is the first designation of Scheduled Tribes in reference to a particular State/Union Territory.
- Only through an Act of Parliament can these orders be changed later.
- The aforementioned article also allows for the listing of scheduled tribes per state/union territory, rather than on a national level.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Raja Ravi Varma and his Arts



Raja Rai Varma's Draupadi Vastraharan is expected to fetch between Rs 15 and Rs 20 crore at an auction.

Who was Raja Ravi Varma?



- Raja Ravi Varma was born at Kilimanoor, Kerala, in April 1848 to a family that was close to the Travancore royals.
- He is popularly regarded as the "Father of Modern Indian Art" for his realistic depictions of Indian gods and goddesses.
- While he primarily painted for royalty, his prints and oleographs are credited with bringing art to the masses.
- He used to draw animals and ordinary sceneries on the walls when he was a kid, using indigenous colours derived from natural resources like leaves, flowers, and soil.
- Raja Raja Varma, his uncle, was aware of this and encouraged him to pursue his passion.
- He learned watercolour painting from the royal painter Ramaswamy Naidu and then oil painting from Dutch artist Theodore Jensen, who was patronised by Ayilyam Thirunal, the then monarch of Travancore.

How he became an artist of the royals?

- Varma became a popular artist among aristocracy, and he was commissioned to paint several portraits in the late 1800s.
- According to legend, he became so well-known that the Kilimanoor Palace in Kerala had to open a post office to handle the influx of painting requests.
- He travelled extensively throughout India for work and inspiration.

Fame as a notable painter

- He was commissioned 14 Puranic paintings for the Durbar Hall of the new Lakshmi Vilas Palace in Baroda after creating a portrait of Maharaja Sayajirao of Baroda.

- Varma drew on events from the Mahabharata and Ramayana to depict Indian culture.
- Several other kings, like the Maharaja of Mysore and the Maharaja of Udaipur, backed him up.
- The artist received an award for an exhibition of his paintings in Vienna in 1873, as his popularity grew.
- At the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, he received three gold awards.

Nature of his artforms

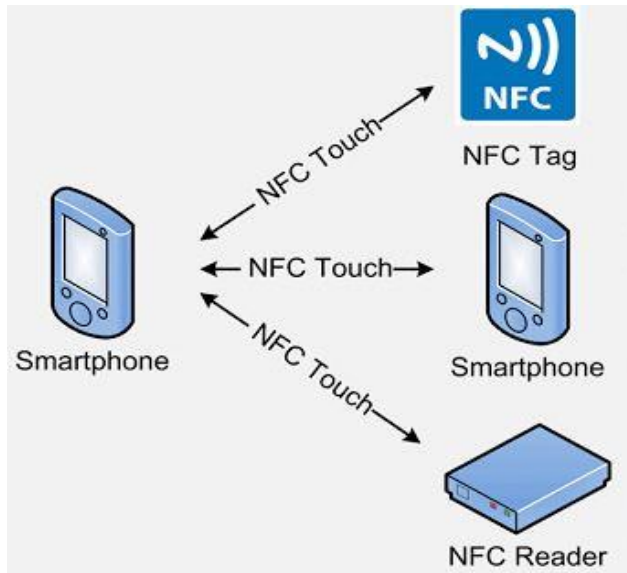
- Much of his well-known artwork is greatly influenced by Indian mythology.
- Indeed, his approachable and more realistic representations of Indian gods and goddesses, frequently painted with humans as models, are often recognised with defining the images of Indian gods and goddesses.
- Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and wisdom, and Lord Vishnu with his consorts, Maya and Lakshmi, are among the goddesses depicted.

How he took Indian art to the masses?

- Raja Ravi Varma wanted to make his art accessible to the general public, therefore he established a Lithographic Press in Bombay in 1894.
- Sir T Madhava Rao, former Dewan of Travancore and later Baroda, reportedly proposed the concept in a letter to Varma, stating that because he couldn't fulfil the high demand for his art, it would be ideal for him to ship some of his best works to Europe and have them printed as oleographs.
- Varma, on the other hand, decided to start his own printing press.

- The Birth of Shakuntala is said to have been the first picture printed at Varma's factory, followed by numerous legendary figures and saints such as Adi Shankaracharya.

Near Field Communication (NFC) technology for instant payments



Google Pay has recently launched a new feature in India, 'Tap to pay for UPI', in collaboration with Pine Labs. The feature makes use of Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.

What is Near Field Communication (NFC)?

- NFC is a short-range wireless connectivity technology that allows NFC-enabled devices to communicate with each other and transfer information quickly and easily with a single touch.
- It makes possible to pay bills, exchange business cards, download coupons, or share a document.

How does it work?

- NFC transmits data through electromagnetic radio fields, to enable communication between

two devices. Both devices must contain NFC chips, as transactions take place within a very short distance.

- NFC-enabled devices must be either physically touching or within a few centimetres from each other for data transfer to occur.

When did NFC tech start?

- In 2004, consumer electronics companies, Nokia, Philips and Sony together formed the NFC Forum, which outlined the architecture for NFC technology to create powerful new consumer-driven products.
- Nokia released the first NFC-enabled phone in 2007.

How will this technology work with the recently launched feature, 'Tap to pay for UPI'?

- Google Pay was the first UPI app to make the Tap to Pay feature available on POS terminals.
- Users with Google Pay-enabled UPI accounts will be able to make payments simply by tapping their NFC-enabled Android phones on any Pine Labs Android POS terminal.
- When customers tap their phones on the POS terminal, the Google Pay app opens automatically with the payment amount pre-filled.
- Users can then use their UPI PIN to check the amount and merchant name, as well as to authenticate the payment.
- Scanning a QR code or inputting a UPI-linked mobile number, which has been the traditional method until now, is much faster.

What are the other applications of NFC technology?

- Aside from payment services, NFC technology offers a wide range of uses.

- It's found in contactless banking cards, which can be used to make payments or create contactless public transportation tickets.
- NFC is behind the cards that we wave over card scanners in subway turnstiles and on buses to verify tickets, and it's used in a variety of applications from safeguarding networks and buildings to monitoring inventories and sales, preventing auto theft, and keeping track of library books.
- It's in speakers, home appliances, and other electronic gadgets that we can manage and monitor with our smartphones.
- NFC can also set up WiFi and Bluetooth gadgets in our houses with just a touch, according to investopedia.
- It can also be used in healthcare to track patient data via NFC-enabled wristbands.
- NFC is also utilised for wireless charging.

How safe is this technology?

- NFC technology is intended for use between devices that are only a few centimetres apart.
- According to the NFC forum, a non-profit industry organisation, this makes it more difficult for attackers to capture the communication between the devices than other wireless technologies with a working distance of several metres.
- The user of an NFC-enabled device choose which entity the NFC communication should take place with using a touch gesture, making it more difficult for the attacker to connect.
- NFC communication has a greater security level than other wireless communication technologies by default.

Where does it stand in comparison to other wireless technologies?

- Other wireless technologies are emerging to take the place of cable-based connections.
- The IrDa technology is a short-range (a few metres) link based on data sharing by infrared light, with both communication devices having to be in line of sight.
- This technology is currently primarily employed in remote control devices. Bluetooth or WiFi connections were used to replace this technology for bigger data transfer with computer devices.
- Due to the longer operating distance, these technologies' receiver devices require their own power source.
- As a result, unlike with NFC, the receiving device cannot be powered by the radiofrequency (RF) field, according to the NFC forum.
- Another effect of the increased working distance is that the user must configure their device and pair them for communication.

Places in news: Jagannath Puri Temple

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has asked the Odisha government to tweak its much-vaunted Shree Mandira Parikrama Project (SMPP) — a massive beautification project around the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri — which has already run into a controversy.

What is the issue?

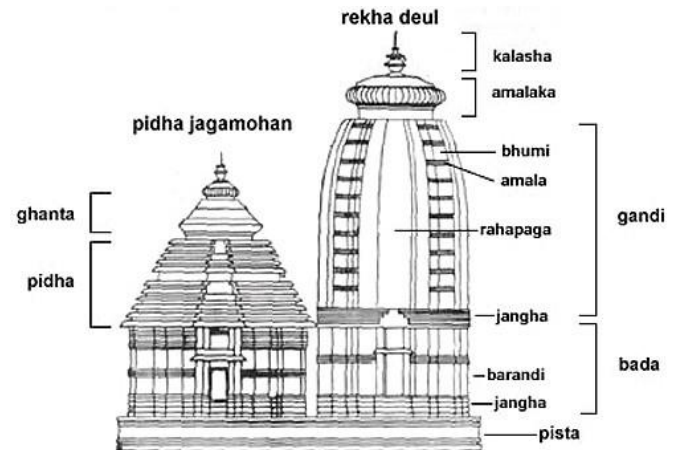
- It is being alleged that neither does the State government have permission of the National Monuments Authority (NMA) nor does it have approval from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to plan.

- Execution of the project could potentially pose a threat to the centuries-old temple.



What is the AMASR Act?

- In 1958, Congress passed the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (or AMASR Act).
- It is a Parliamentary statute that ensures the preservation of ancient and historical monuments, as well as archaeological sites and remnants of national significance.
- It regulates archaeological excavations and ensures the protection of sculptures, carvings, and other such artefacts.
- This legislation governs the functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India.
- The rules state that within 100 metres of the monument, all activities are prohibited.
- Within 200 metres of the monument, the land is classified as regulated.
- Permission is required for any repairs or modifications to structures in this region.



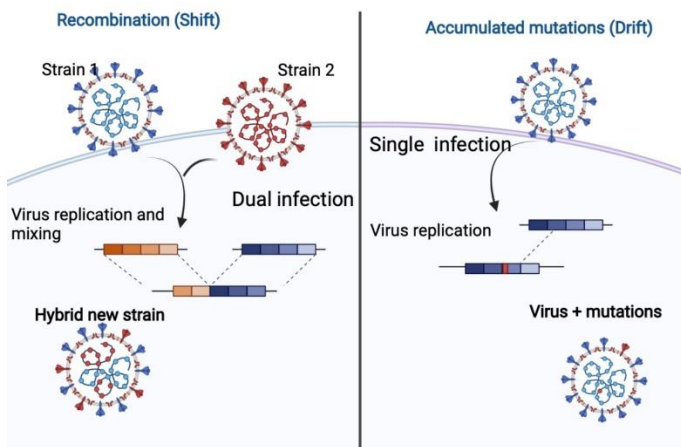
Its architecture

- It is one of India's most spectacular structures, with its sculptural richness and the fluidity of the Oriya style of temple design.
- The massive temple complex is enclosed by a high defensive wall and spans over 400,000 square feet.
- Meghanada Pacheri is the name given to this 20-foot-high wall.
- The main temple is surrounded by another wall called as kurma bedha.

The temple has four distinct sectional structures, namely:

1. Deula, Vimana or Garba griha (Sanctum sanctorum) where the triad deities are lodged on the ratnavedi (Throne of Pearls). In Rekha Deula style;
2. Mukhashala (Frontal porch);
3. Nata mandir/Natamandapa, which is also known as the Jagamohan (Audience Hall/Dancing Hall), and
4. Bhoga Mandapa (Offerings Hall)

Recombinant Variants of SARS-CoV-2



The World Health Organization (WHO) has flagged the emergence of a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus — the XE recombinant.

How are variants created?

- The virus that causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, is an RNA virus that evolves through the accumulation of genetic mistakes in its genome.
- When a virus enters a person and replicates itself inside the host's cells, several mistakes occur.
- As a result, these flaws (also known as mutations) are a by-product of SARS-CoV-2 replication inside the cell, and they may be passed down as the virus infects more people.
- A lineage or variety of the virus is formed when viruses with a certain set of mistakes or mutations infect a large number of people, forming a cluster of infections descending from a common parental virus genome.

Who name these variants?

- The PANGO network, an open worldwide cooperation of academics from around the world, has developed a system for designating SARS-CoV-2 lineages.

- Pangolin was created to apply the Pango nomenclature, which is a dynamic name for SARS-CoV-2 lineages.
- Epidemiologists closely monitor these variants or lineages to trace the evolution of SARS-CoV-2.

What is a recombinant variant?

- Aside from faults in the virus genome, recombination is another way for a virus to develop its genetic variety.
- When two separate lineages of the virus co-infect the same cell in the host and exchange portions of their individual genomes, this is known as recombination.
- This results in a descendent variety with mutations found in both the virus's original lineages.
- Recombination of lineages occurs in a wide range of different viruses, including influenza viruses and other coronaviruses.
- Such recombination occurrences are common in settings when two or more SARS-CoV-2 lineages are co-circulating in the same area at the same time.
- This co-circulation of lineages creates the possibility of recombination between these two SARS-CoV-2 lineages.

How many recombinant viruses have been detected?

- While recombination events for the SARS-CoV-2 virus are uncommon, many recombinant lineages have been identified during the pandemic.
- PANGO annotates recombinant lineages with a 'X' followed by an alphabet indicating the order of discovery.
- XA, a recombinant of B.1.1.7 (Alpha) and B.1.177 identified in the United Kingdom, lineage XB

detected in the United States, and lineage XC detected in Japan, which is a recombinant of B.1.1.7 (Alpha) and AY.29 sublineage of Delta, are some of the previously detected and designated lineages.

- The PANGO network has just recognised and is monitoring three novel recombinant lineages of SARS-CoV-2: XD, XE, and XF.
- Despite the fact that XF is only found in a small percentage of genomes in the United Kingdom, early data from the country reveal evidence of community transmission.

Are recombinant variants more deadly?

- Although recombination has been discovered in SARS-CoV-2, it has not yet had a significant impact on public health.
- In comparison to the currently dominant Omicron form, there is minimal indication that recombinant lineages have a different clinical result.
- More data will undoubtedly be required to determine the impact of these lineages on the epidemiology of COVID-19 at this time.

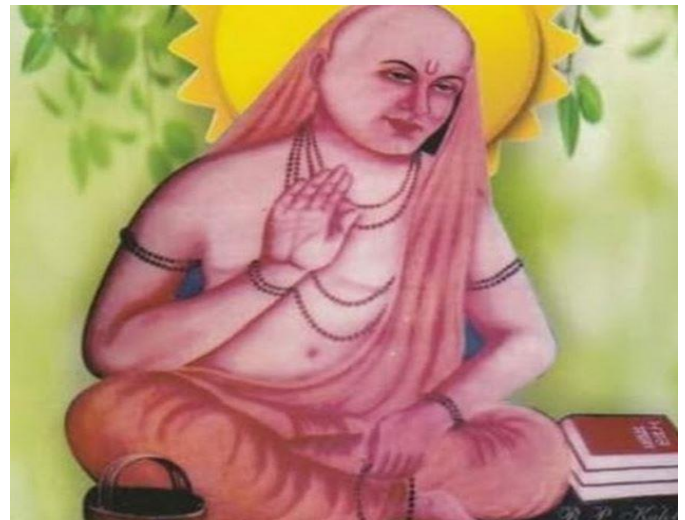
What are the methods through which recombinants are identified?

- Identifying and tracking SARS-CoV-2 recombinant lineages is a difficult endeavour.
- Similar variant combinations could also result from unintended sequencing or processing errors, as well as contamination of sequencing studies, which would necessitate specialised tools and the availability of original (or raw) data for genome sequences.
- The PANGO network can give a lineage name to a group of recombinant genomes if it can be proven that the samples in the group share a

common ancestor and derive from two distinct SARS-CoV-2 lineages.

- There should also be at least 5 genomes in the public domain that belong to the cluster, demonstrating that the lineage is still being transmitted.
- Furthermore, these samples' sequencing results should show no evidence of contamination and should fit the definition of a recombinant.

Who was Guru Nabha Dass?



Punjab government has announced gazetted holiday on the birth anniversary of Guru Nabha Dass, a 16th century saint, taking it out from list of restricted holidays.

Who was Guru Nabha Dass?

- Guru Nabha Dass was born on April 8, 1537, in the village of Bhadrachalam, on the banks of the Godavari River, in the Khammam district of Telangana.
- He belonged to the Mahasha community, often known as doom or dumna, which is a Schedule Caste community.

- Orphaned Guru Nabha Dass, whose original name was Narayan Dass, had a spiritual predisposition since boyhood.
- Two religious gurus travelling through his hamlet, Agar Dass and Keel Dass, led the orphan youngster to a temple at Ghalta Dham near Jaipur, which is today the principal pilgrimage of Nabhadassias.
- Nabhadassias are the name given to members of this community. They are known for using bamboo to make baskets and grain storage containers.

His legacy

- Guru Nabha Dass wrote 'Bhagatmal' in 1585.
- It has the life history of around 200 saints. He died in 1643.

What is his connection with Punjab?

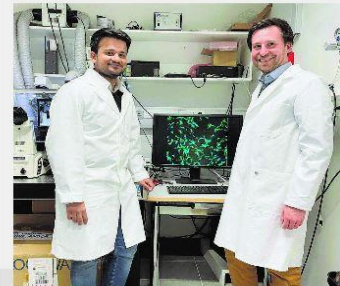
- Guru Nabha Dass used to visit village Pandori in Gurdaspur district where people of Doom community live.
- Some gurus of the community also used to live there.

What made government announce gazetted holiday now?

- Political parties can't manage to ignore the sentiments of such a large community.
- The community had been requesting the government to declare April 8 as a gazetted holiday since long.

Microbots for Drug Delivery

Swimming through viscous body fluids



Varied tactics: By changing the pH of the solution or by triggering it with light, the researchers showed that drug release could be activated

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

■ The micro-swimmers are made from the two-dimensional compound poly(heptazine imide) carbon nitride

■ The nearly spherical micro-swimmers (1 to 10 micrometre in size) can self-propel, energised by light

■ Like in a solar cell, the incident light is converted into electrons and holes on the surface of the swimmers, which in turn react to form ions

■ These ions move around the particle and make the fluid flow around it, causing the micro-swimmers to move

■ The body fluids and blood contain dissolved salts, and

the salt ions stop the reaction ions from moving freely

■ The researchers found that the ions in the salty solution passed through the pores of PHI carbon nitride leaving little or no resistance

■ In addition to transporting salt ions from the fluid, the voids and pores on the microparticles acted like cargo bays to soak up drug molecules

■ The researchers showed drug release could also be activated by testing with Doxorubicin

An Indian researcher has found that it is possible to use light as a fuel to move microbots in real-body conditions with intelligent drug delivery that is selectively sensitive to cancer cells

Microswimmers for drug delivery

- These microbots, which are made of the two-dimensional substance poly (heptazine imide) carbon nitride (called PHI carbon nitride), are nothing like miniature humans.
- They can self-propel when stimulated by bright light and range in size from 1 to 10 micrometres (a micrometre is one millionth of a metre).
- While carbon nitride is a great photocatalyst, the two-dimensional PHI has a sponge-like structure with pores and gaps that allows it to store charge.
- The ions in the saline solution flowed through the pores of PHI carbon nitride, according to the researchers.
- As a result, the salt ions provided little or no resistance.

How do they swim across the blood?

- Photocatalytic carbon nitride microparticles from PHI are used.
- The incident light is transformed into electrons and holes, just like in a solar cell.
- These charges cause reactions in the liquid around them. The charges interact with the fluid in their environment.
- The microbots (micro-swimmers) swim as a result of this reaction, which is aided by the electric field of the particle.
- On the surface of the swimmers, electrons and holes are formed as long as there is light, which react to form ions and an electric field around the swimmer.
- These ions circulate around the particle, causing fluid to flow around it.
- The micro-swimmers move as a result of the fluid flow.

How does the ion movement occur?

- Ions migrate from the micro-brilliant swimmer's surface to the back end.
- The micro-swimmer is propelled in the opposite direction by the diffusion of the swimming medium in one direction.
- This is similar to a boat travelling in the opposite direction of the oar strokes.
- Because the particles are nearly spherical, incident light illuminates half of the sphere while leaving the other dark.
- Photocatalysis is only seen on the lighted hemisphere because it is light-driven.
- Micro-swimmers march in the direction of the light source as the ions travel from the bright to the dark side.



Many students from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Rajasthan are enrolling for training of Yakshagana theatre.

What is Yakshagana?

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre created in the Karnataka districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Shimoga, and western Chikmagalur, as well as the Kerala district of Kasaragod.
- It was first performed by Jakkula Varu under the Vijayanagara Empire.
- It has a distinct style and form that incorporates dance, music, speech, costume, make-up, and stage techniques.
- The version of Yakshagana is known as 'Thenku thittu' in the south, from Dakshina Kannada to Kasaragod in Tulu Nadu, and 'Badaga Thittu' in the north, from Udupi to Uttara Kannada.
- It is also known as "Aata" or "a" (which means "the drama"). From dark till morning, Yakshagana is usually performed.
- Its stories are based on the Hindu and Jain epics Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavata, as well as other ancient Indian epics.

Artform in news: Yakshagana

Improved GSLV to be ready by this year



The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with improvements added to its cryogenic upper stage (CUS) is expected to be ready in the second half of this year.

What is GSLV?

- The ISRO's GSLV is an expendable space launch vehicle that is used to place satellites and other space objects into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits.
- GSLV stands 49.13 metres tall, making it the tallest ISRO vehicle.
- It's a three-stage vehicle with a 420-tonne lift-off mass.

- ISRO launched the GSLV for the first time on April 18, 2001, and has made a total of 13 launches since then.

Stages in GSLV

- S139 solid booster with 138-tonne propellant and four liquid strap-on motors with 40-tonne propellant make up the first stage.
- A liquid engine carrying 40 tonnes of liquid propellant is used in the second stage.
- The Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), which was constructed in-house and carries 15 tonnes of cryogenic propellants, is the third stage.

Variants in GSLV

- The GSLV Mk I is a variant of the GSLV rocket that uses the Russian Cryogenic Stage (CS), whereas the GSLV Mk II is a version that uses the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS).
- All GSLV launches have taken place from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Difference between PSLV and GSLV

- The GSLV is capable of launching a larger payload into orbit than the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- PSLV can launch satellites weighing up to 2000 kg into space and reach altitudes of 600-900 km.
- The GSLV can carry up to 5,000 kilograms of cargo and travel up to 36,000 kilometres.
- PSLV is primarily intended for the delivery of earth observation or remote sensing satellites, whereas GSLV is intended for the launch of communication satellites.
- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) places satellites into higher elliptical orbits, such as Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit

(GTO) and Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO) (GEO).

Festivals in news: Madhavpur Mela



The Madhavpur Mela was recently inaugurated by the President of India.

In the entire country, there is no other fair which the President and host of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of a number of states visit.

What is the Madhavpur Mela?

- The Mela is a religious and cultural festival held every year at Madhavpur, also known as Madhavpur Ghed, a village on the Porbandar seashore.
- Madhavraiji, or Lord Krishna, and his spouse Rukmini have temples in the village, which are thought to have been erected in the 15th century.
- It's also famous for its sandy beach, the Arabian Sea's turquoise waters, a sea turtle nursery, and the Osho Ashram.
- The fair begins on Ram Navami, Lord Rama's birthday, which falls on the ninth day of the

Hindu month of Chaitra, and ends on Tryodashi, the 13th day of the month.

Mythology behind the fair

- According to Hindu legend, the fair commemorates Lord Krishna's marriage to Rukmini roughly 4,000 years ago.
- The fair begins on Ram Navami, Lord Rama's birthday, which falls on the ninth day of the Hindu month of Chaitra, and ends on Tryodashi, the 13th day of the month.
- Lord Krishna created his realm in Dwarka near Porbandar, according to legend.
- Rukmini, the daughter of King Bhimak of modern-day Arunachal Pradesh, desired to marry Krishna, but her brother preferred to marry her to Krishna's cousin Shishupal.
- As a result, Krishna kidnapped Rukmini, transported her to Gujarat, and married her at Madhavpur village.
- Marriage ceremonies continue for five days today to commemorate the wedding.
- They conclude with a procession through Madhavpur with the idols of Lord Krishna and Rukmini for'samaiya,' a custom to welcome the bridegroom back home with his bride.

Why are vaccines administered into the upper arm?



Almost everyone vaccinated for Covid-19 over the last 16 months will remember that he or she received a quick prick in the upper arm.

Why vaccines are generally administered into muscle?

- Because most vaccines, including those for Covid-19, are most effective when delivered intramuscularly into the deltoid muscle in the upper arm, this is the case.
- There are various reasons for this, but the most essential is that muscles have a well-developed blood supply system.
- When a vaccination containing an antigen is injected into the muscle, the antigen is released, and the antigen is disseminated via the muscular vasculature, which is the arrangement of blood vessels in the muscle.
- The antigen is subsequently picked up by dendritic cells, a type of immune cell that functions by displaying antigens on its surface to other immune system cells.
- The antigen is carried to the lymph node by dendritic cells through the lymphatic fluid.

Role of T Cells

- T lymphocytes are a type of leukocyte (white blood cell) that plays an important role in the immune system.

- T cells are one of two types of lymphocytes that define the specificity of the immune response to antigens (foreign substances) in the body. B cells are the other type.
- T cells and B cells – the body's principal defender cells — have been discovered in lymph nodes as a result of years of research.
- We begin establishing an immune response to a particular virus after this antigen is flagged and supplied to T cells and B cells.
- It might be one of the new viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, or one of the older viruses for which we have vaccines.

Other options for vaccination

- In contrast, if the vaccination is given into the subcutaneous adipose tissue [between the skin and the muscle], which has a low blood supply, the antigen vaccine will be poorly absorbed, and the immune response would be compromised.
- Similarly, potentially harmful additions may create a local reaction.
- When the vaccination is given intradermally, the same thing could happen (just below the outermost skin layer, the epidermis).
- As a result, most immunizations are now administered intramuscularly.
- In addition, muscles contain less pain receptors than the epidermis or subcutaneous tissue, therefore an intramuscular injection does not hurt as much as a subcutaneous or intradermal injection.

But why the upper arm muscle in particular?

- The immunogenicity — the ability of any cell or tissue to provoke an immune response — of some vaccines, such as the rabies vaccine, rises when it is given in the arm.

- These vaccines have a decreased immunogenicity when injected in subcutaneous fat tissues of the thigh or hips, and so there is a risk of vaccine failure.

Why not administer the vaccine directly into the vein?

- This is to ensure the 'depot effect,' or the gradual release of drug over time, which allows for greater effectiveness.
- The vaccine is quickly absorbed into the circulation when given intravenously.
- The vaccination takes some time to absorb when administered intramuscularly.
- A vaccination programme is carried out for the masses wherever it is carried out.
- The quickest way to get the vaccination into your system is to take it orally (like the polio vaccine).
- However, for other vaccines that must be provided intravenously or intramuscularly (allowing for more widespread field delivery), the intramuscular method is preferred over the intravenous route from a public health standpoint.

Which vaccines are administered through other routes?

- Scarification of the skin was used to administer one of the earliest immunizations for smallpox.
- Doctors eventually realised, however, that there are better ways to vaccinate recipients.
- The intradermal route, the subcutaneous route, the intramuscular route, the oral route, and the nasal route were among them.
- Only two drugs are still delivered by the intradermal method.
- These are the vaccines for BCG (Bacillus Calmette–Guérin) and tuberculosis since these

two vaccines have been shown to work well when delivered intradermally.

Festivals in news: Karaga Festival



The centuries-old Karaga (temple fair) festival was recently held at the Dharmaraya Swamy Temple in Bengaluru.

Karaga Festival

- According to the Hindu calendar, it is observed every year in the Chaitra month (March/April).
- The Mahabharata epic is the source of the festivity.
- It reveres Draupadi as the ideal lady and Shakti, the Goddess of Power.
- The name 'Karaga' refers to an earthen pot that holds a floral pyramid and a Goddess idol.
- The Karaga is worn on the bearer's head without being touched.
- The bearer is dressed as a lady, with bangles, a mangal-sutra, and vermilion on his brow.

Who was Guru Tegh Bahadur?



The government will celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur with a two-day event at the Red Fort.

Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621–1675)

- Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth of the Sikh religion's 10 Gurus. He was Guru Hargobind's youngest son and was born in Amritsar in 1621.
- From 1665 until 1675, he served as Guru. The Guru Granth Sahib contains a total of 115 of his hymns.
- There are various tales that explain why Guru Tegh Bahadur was assassinated on Aurangzeb's orders.
- He fought for the rights of Kashmiri Pandits who came to him seeking protection from Aurangzeb's religious persecution.
- On the command of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, he was publicly killed in Delhi in 1675 for resisting and opposing Mughal rulers.
- In Delhi, the Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib commemorate his execution and funeral.

Impact of his martyrdom

- Sikhs' commitment to fight religious oppression and persecution was strengthened by the execution.
- His death aided all Sikh Panths in uniting to make human rights protection a core part of their Sikh identity.
- His nine-year-old son, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, was inspired by him and eventually structured the Sikh community into a separate, formal, symbol-patterned community known as Khalsa (Martial) identity.
- "Guru Teg Bahadur's martyrdom was the first-ever martyrdom for human rights in the world," says Noel King of the University of California.
- He is affectionately known as 'Hind di Chaadar.'

WHO & Traditional Medicine



PM Modi, along with World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, will perform the groundbreaking ceremony for the first-of-its-kind WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

What is Traditional Medicine?

- Traditional medicine is defined by the WHO as "the totality of indigenous and various cultures' knowledge, skills, and practises utilised over time to maintain health and prevent, diagnose, and cure physical and mental illness."

- Its scope includes both traditional and modern medicine, including acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine, and herbal mixes.
- Traditional medicine is used by 80 percent of the world's population, according to WHO estimates.

Traditional medicine in India

- It is frequently defined as embracing both practises and therapies that have historically been part of Indian culture, such as Yoga, Ayurveda, and Siddha, as well as others, such as homoeopathy, that have become part of Indian tradition over time.
- Ayurveda and yoga are widely practised throughout the country.
- In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the Siddha system is primarily used.
- The Sowa-Rigpa System is mostly used in Leh-Ladakh and Himalayan areas like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling, Lahaul, and Spiti.

What will the GCTM be about?

- To maximise traditional medicine's contribution to global health, the GCTM will focus on evidence-based research, innovation, and data analysis.
- Its main goal will be to provide norms, standards, and guidance in traditional medicine-related technical domains.
- It will work to establish policies and standards for traditional medicine items, as well as to assist countries in developing a comprehensive, safe, and high-quality healthcare system.
- The GCTM will aid in the implementation of the WHO's Traditional Medicine Strategy (2014-23).
- It will act as a focal point, focusing on developing a "strong evidence base" for policies and

"assisting countries in integrating it as appropriate into their health systems."

Why has the WHO felt the need to advance knowledge of traditional medicine?

- Traditional medicine is widely used in almost every WHO member country.
- These member states have requested its assistance in assembling a body of credible evidence and data on traditional medicine practises and products.
- According to the WHO, traditional medicine personnel, recognised courses, and health facilities are still not properly integrated into national health systems and agendas.
- It has emphasised the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainability, as natural ingredients account for around 40% of licenced pharmaceutical products today.
- It has been said that traditional medicine is being examined in a more modern fashion. In traditional medicine, artificial intelligence is now being utilised to map evidence and patterns.

ISRO develops Space Bricks from Martian Soil



The 'space bricks' developed by researchers from ISRO and IISc. special Arrangement

Researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science

(IISc) have developed a way to make bricks from Martian soil with the help of bacteria and urea.

Space Bricks

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have cooperated to create a unique scalable technique for making space bricks using Martian Simulant Soil (MSS).
- The slurry was initially created by mixing Martian soil with guar gum, *Sporosarcina pasteurii* bacteria, urea, and nickel chloride (NiCl₂).
- This slurry can be put into any form mould, and the bacteria will convert the urea into calcium carbonate crystals over the course of a few days.
- These crystals, in combination with biopolymers generated by bacteria, serve as a cement that holds soil particles together.
- This process makes the bricks less porous, which was a concern with previous Martian brick-making technologies.
- The bacteria seep deep into the pore spaces, binding the particles together with their own proteins, reducing porosity and resulting in stronger bricks.

Their significance

- In the past, the team had made bricks out of lunar soil using a similar method.
- These 'space bricks' can be used to construct building-like structures on Mars that could facilitate human settlement on the red planet.

Russia's new nuclear missile 'Sarmat'



Amidst stiff resistance from Ukraine in the ongoing war and harsh sanctions imposed by the West, Russia went ahead and tested its new Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Sarmat.

What is Sarmat?

- According to reports, the RS-28 Sarmat (NATO name Satan-II) may carry ten or more warheads and decoys.
- With a range of 11,000 to 18,000 kilometres, it can fire across either of the earth's poles.
- It is projected to pose a substantial challenge to the western countries' ground- and satellite-based radar monitoring systems, particularly those of the United States.
- Multiple Independently-Targetable Re-entry Vehicles are the 10 warheads, each with a blast output of .75 MT.
- The Sarmat will be Russia's first missile capable of carrying smaller hypersonic boost-glide vehicles. These are manoeuvrable and difficult to catch.
- In contrast to US ICBMs, which have switched to solid fuel systems, it is a liquid-fueled missile.

Who is it named after?

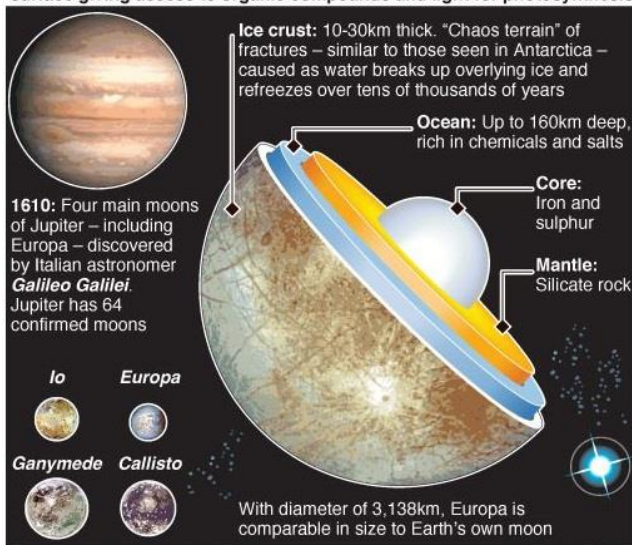
- The Sarmat is called after nomadic tribes who roamed the steppes of today's Southern Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan in the early Middle Ages.
- The Sarmatians excelled in horses and combat.
- It goes on to explain that the Sarmatians' administrative ability and political expertise helped them establish extensive dominance by the 5th century BC.
- They ruled the territory between the Urals and the Don River.
- By the 2nd century, they had overrun practically all of southern Russia, having crossed the Don and subjugated the Scythians in the 4th century.

- Europa is somewhat smaller than Earth's moon and has a quarter of the Earth's diameter.
- Despite its scant oxygen atmosphere, Europa is regarded as one of the most promising locations in the solar system for finding current-day circumstances suitable for life beyond Earth.
- It's also thought that beneath Europa's frozen surface, there's twice as much water as there is on Earth.
- Europa's ice shell is predicted to be 15-25 km thick and floating on an ocean that is 60-150 km deep, according to NASA.
- Europa, despite its smaller diameter than the Earth, likely contains twice as much water as all of the Earth's oceans combined.
- In 2024, NASA plans to launch the Europa Clipper mission.
- The module will orbit Jupiter and travel close to Europa several times to collect data on the moon's atmosphere, surface, and interior.

New research about Jupiter's moon Europa

Jupiter's moon Europa could foster life

New research suggests that an ocean of water just beneath the icy shell of Europa might support life, with plumes of warmer water fracturing the surface giving access to organic compounds and light for photosynthesis



A team of researchers from Stanford University have said that on one of Jupiter's moons Europa, a prime candidate for life in the solar system might have abundance of water pockets beneath formations called double ridges.

About Europa

What is the new finding?

- Europa, whose surface is primarily solid water ice, is known to contain water beneath it.
- The double ridges – the formations that are most prevalent on Europa's surface and are similar to those observed on Earth's Greenland ice sheet – are now being compared to those seen on Earth's Greenland ice sheet, according to the researchers.
- They form on the surface of shallow water pockets.

Significance of the recent findings

- The main point is that the shallow water pockets beneath the double ridge boost the moon's potential habitability.

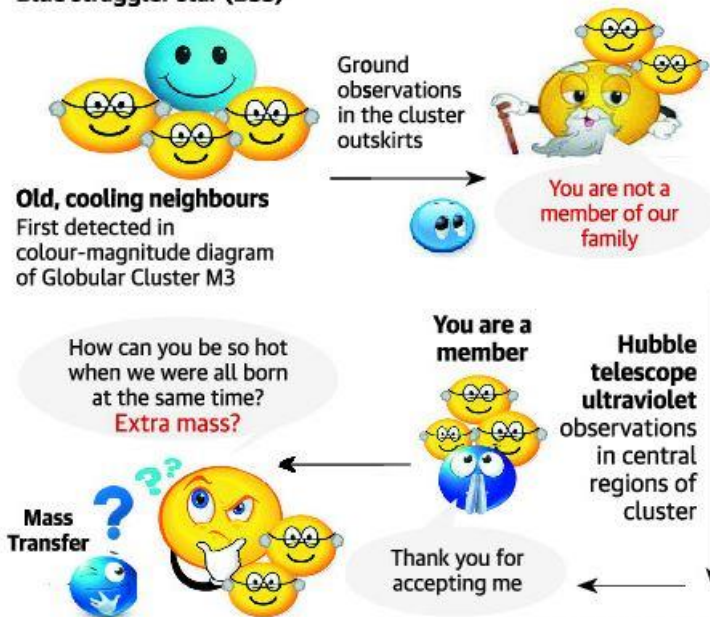
- Scientists have found sampling the ice shell, which could be kilometres thick, to be a challenging task.
- The ice shell, however, is now seen to be more of a dynamic system than a barrier, according to fresh data.
- This means that the ice shell does not behave like a block of ice that is inert, but rather experiences a range of geological and hydrological processes.
- This points to active volcanism and, by extension, the possibility of life.

- A blue straggler in an open or globular cluster is a main-sequence star that is brighter and bluer than the cluster's main sequence turnoff point.
- Allan Sandage discovered blue stragglers in the globular cluster M3 in 1953 while performing photometry on the stars.

Why are blue straggler stars different from the norm?

The puzzle posed by blue stragglers

Blue straggler star (BSS)



Researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru have studied the eccentricities of blue straggler stars.

What are Blue Straggler Stars?

What did the Indian researchers study?

- Eccentricity refers to how far a planet's or star's orbit deviates from circularity; the higher the eccentricity, the more elliptical the orbit.
- The observations of the UVIT instrument (Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope) of ASTROSAT, India's first science observatory in orbit, were also used by the researchers.

(a) Stellar ageing of stars

- To comprehend what blue stragglers are, you must first understand how stars are classified and researched.
- Our Sun, for example, is a main sequence star, which means that once it has converted all of its hydrogen into helium, its core will become denser as the outer layers expand.
- As a result, it will expand into a red giant.
- After this phase, when the star's fuel is depleted, it will shrink, eventually becoming a smaller, cooling star known as a white dwarf star.

(b) Sequencing of stars

- You may plot a graph of a star's colour, which indicates its surface temperature, against its magnitude, which is connected to the total energy it emits, to examine the star's behaviour.
- If you do this for all of the stars in a globular cluster, you'll notice that a huge percentage of them fall into a band known as the main sequence.

- Our Sun is also a main sequence star, and all main sequence stars are expected to follow a path of evolution similar to that of our Sun, as detailed above.
- There are a few celebrities who, right at the point in their lives when they should be expanding in size and cooling down, do the exact opposite.
- They get brighter, hotter, and bluer in colour, standing out on the color-magnitude diagram from the cooler red stars in their proximity.
- They are termed stragglers because they lag behind their peers in evolution, and blue stragglers because of their heated, blue colour.

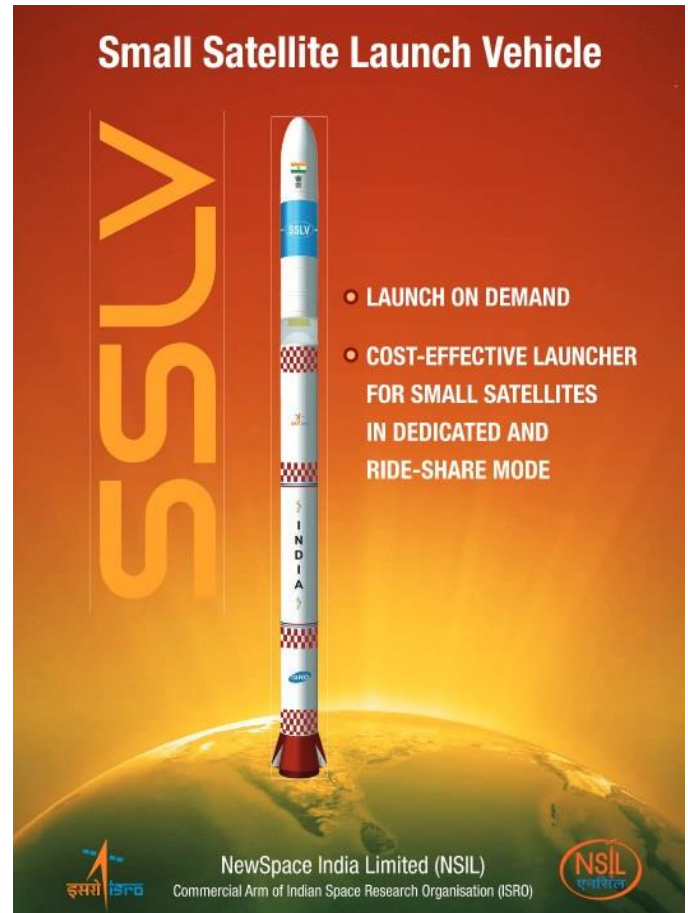
- The vehicle's production and launch operations will be handled by a consortium of Indian companies, including NewSpace India Limited, once it enters the operational phase (NSIL).

SSLV 'development flights' likely in 2022

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is hoping to have all three development flights planned for its 'baby rocket' — the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) — in 2022 itself.

What is SSLV?

- The SSLV is a small-lift launch vehicle being developed by the ISRO with payload capacity to deliver:
 1. 600 kg to Low Earth Orbit (500 km) or
 2. 300 kg to Sun-synchronous Orbit (500 km)
- It would aid in the launch of tiny satellites and would be capable of numerous orbital drop-offs.
- A specialised launch pad dubbed the Small Satellite Launch Complex (SSLC) will be built at Sriharikota in the future.
- SSLV launches will be handled once a new spaceport near Kulasekharapatnam in Tamil Nadu is completed.



Vehicle details

(A) Dimensions

- Height: 34 meters
- Diameter: 2 meters
- Mass: 120 tonnes

(B) Propulsion

- It will be a four stage launching vehicle.
- The first three stages will use Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) based solid

propellant, with a fourth terminal stage being a Velocity-Trimming Module (VTM).

SSLV vs. PSLV: A comparison

- The SSLV was created with the goal of commercially launching small satellites at a far lower cost and with a much higher launch rate than the Polar SLV (PSLV).
- The expected high launch rate is based on a mostly autonomous launch operation and simplified logistics in general.
- A PSLV launch, for example, involves 600 personnel, but the SSLV launch would be controlled by a small team of roughly six individuals.
- Instead of months, the SSLV's launch readiness is predicted to be less than a week.

- The SSLV can launch satellites weighing up to 500 kilogrammes into low earth orbit, whereas the PSLV can launch spacecraft weighing up to 1000 kg.
- The entire project will be completed in a short amount of time, with a cost of around Rs 30 crore for SSLV.

Significance of SSLV

- SSLV is ideal for simultaneously launching several microsatellites and allowing for multiple orbital drop-offs.
- The SSLV's development and production are expected to foster increased collaboration between the space industry and private Indian enterprises, which is a primary goal of the space ministry.

Security Issues

INS Vagsheer: Key features, capabilities



The sixth and last of the French Scorpene-class submarines, INS Vagsheer, was launched into water at the Mazagon Docks in Mumbai.

Launch of INS Vagsheer

- Veena Ajay Kumar (wife of Union Defence Secretary) inaugurated it, following the navy custom of naming and launching ships by women.
 - The six submarines were built by the Mazagon Docks under Project-75, which received technology from the Naval Group as part of a \$3.75 billion deal agreed in October 2005:
1. INS Kalvari was commissioned in December 2017;
 2. INS Khanderi in September 2019;
 3. INS Vagir in November 2020;
 4. INS Karanj in March 2021; and
 5. INS Vela in November 2021.

- P 75 is one of two lines of submarines, the other being P75I, as part of a plan approved in 1999 for indigenous submarine construction with technology taken from overseas firms.



Why 'Vagsheer'

- Vagsheer is called after the sand fish, an Indian Ocean deep sea predator.
- The Indian Navy's first submarine, the Russian-built Vagsheer, was commissioned on December 26, 1974, and retired on April 30, 1997.
- When the new Vagsheer is commissioned, it will be given a formal name.

Specifications

- Vagsheer has the capacity to transport up to eight officers and 35 men.
- It is 67.5 metres in length and 12.3 metres in height, with a 6.2-meter beam. When submerged, Vagsheer can attain a top speed of 20 knots, and when it surfaces, it can reach a top speed of 11 knots.
- It is powered by four MTU 12V 396 SE84 diesel engines, 360 battery cells, and a Permanently Magnetised Propulsion Motor.
- All equipment inside the pressure hull is installed on shock-absorbing cradles for greater stealth,

while the hull, fin, and hydroplanes are engineered for minimum underwater resistance.

Features

- Vagsheer is a diesel assault submarine that is capable of performing both sea and access denial warfare against the enemy.
- It is capable of offensive naval warfare missions like as anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, information collection, mine laying, and area surveillance.
- A C303 anti-torpedo countermeasure system is installed.
- It has the capability to carry up to 18 torpedoes or Exocet anti-ship missiles, or 30 mines in lieu of torpedoes.
- Advanced acoustic absorption techniques, low radiated noise levels, and a hydrodynamically optimised shape are among its exceptional stealth features.
- It has the ability to launch a debilitating strike, either underwater or on land, employing precision guided weaponry.

Road ahead

- When Vagsheer's sea trials are completed, he will be commissioned into the Indian Navy's Western Command.
- It will be located mostly in Mumbai with the Western Naval Command.
- For more than a year, the submarine will be subjected to a comprehensive and demanding set of tests and trials to ensure delivery of a completely combat-ready submarine.

Strontium: A Cyber-Espionage Group

Recently, Microsoft said that it had disrupted cyberattacks from a Russian nation-state hacking group called 'Strontium'.

What is Strontium?

- Strontium is a very active and prolific cyber-espionage gang also known as Fancy Bear, Tsar Team, Pawn Storm, Sofacy, Sednit, or Advanced Persistent Threat 28 (APT28).
- It is one of the most active APT groups and has been active since at least the mid-2000s, making it one of the oldest cyber-spy outfits in the world.
- It has access to advanced espionage technologies and has launched attacks on targets in the United States, Europe, Central Asia, and West Asia.
- The GRU, the Russian Armed Forces' principal military intelligence wing, is alleged to be linked to the organisation.
- The GRU's cyber units are suspected of being behind a number of cyberattacks over the years, and unit 26165 is known as Fancy Bear.

How does it attack networks?

- To break into networks, the gang uses a variety of viruses and dangerous tools.
- It has previously attacked targets with X-Tunnel, SPLM (or CHOPSTICK and X-Agent), GAMEFISH, and Zebrocy.
- These programmes can track keystrokes, mouse movements, and manipulate webcams and USB drives and can be used as hooks in system drivers to retrieve local passwords.
- To target specific persons and organisations, APT28 uses spear-phishing (targeted campaigns to acquire access to an individual's account) and zero-day exploits (exploiting undisclosed computer-software flaws).
- It has stolen account credentials, sensitive conversations, and documents using spear-phishing and, on occasion, water-holing.
- A watering hole attack compromises a website that a targeted victim accesses in order to obtain access to his or her computer and network.

Trivia

Festivals in news: Gudi Padwa

The President of India has sent his greetings to fellow citizens on the eve of Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba.

Gudi Padwa

- Gudi Padwa is a springtime event that celebrates the traditional New Year for Marathi and Konkani Hindus, as well as other Hindus.
- On the first day of the Chaitra month, it is celebrated in and around Maharashtra, Goa, and the union territory of Damaon to mark the start

of the Hindu calendar's luni-solar method of calculating the New Year.

- Padava or paadvo is derived from the Sanskrit term pratipada, which refers to the first day of the lunar fortnight.
- Colorful rangoli floor decorations, an unique Gudhi dvaja (flag garlanded with flowers, mango and neem leaves, topped with upturned silver or copper containers), street processions, dancing, and festive dishes are all part of the spring festival.

Significance

- Gudhi Padva marks the beginning of spring and the harvesting of Rabi crops.
- The festival commemorates the Hindu god Brahma's fabled day when he created time and the universe.
- Some believe it celebrates Rama's coronation in Ayodhya following his victory over the demon Ravana, or the commencement of the Shalivahan calendar when he vanquished the Huns in the 1st century.

State-wide celebrations

- Bihu is a term used by Assamese people in Assam.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, Cheti Chand is a Sindhi word, whereas Navreh is a Kashmiri Pandit word.

- Bengalis in West Bengal and Bangladesh celebrate Pahela Baishakh.
- Tamil Nadu's Puthandu is a popular name among Tamils.
- Samvatsar Padvo is a Hindu festival celebrated by Hindu Konkanis in Goa and the Konkani diaspora in Kerala.
- Vaisakhi or Baisakhi is a Punjabi festival.
- Vishu, or among Kerala's Malayalis.
- The southern Indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana celebrate Ugadi.
- Manipur's Sajibu Cheiraoba



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