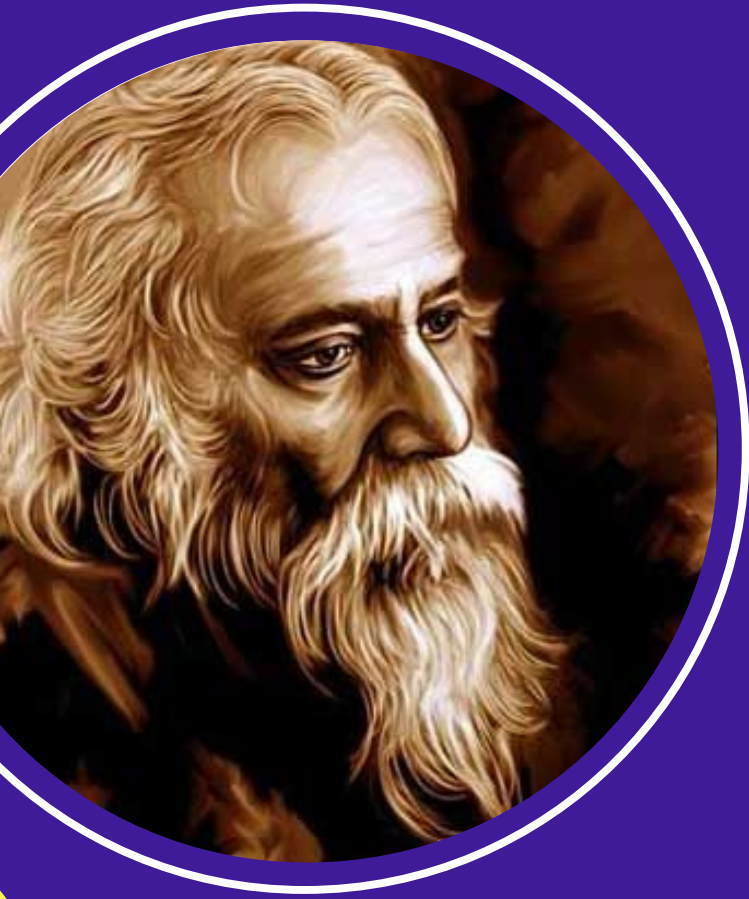


CURRENT AFFAIRS



**MAY
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 May 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

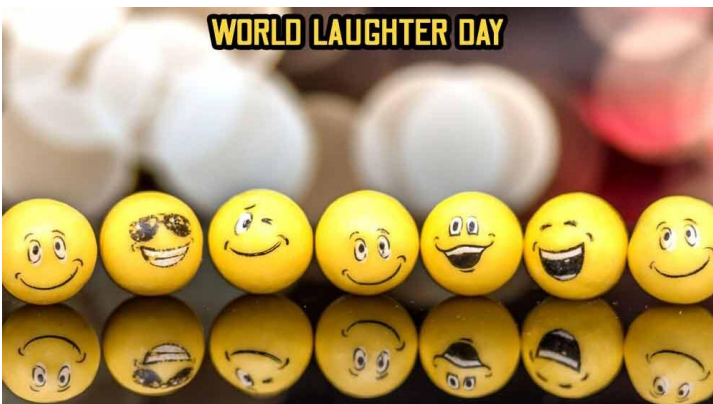


1: Important Days



International Labour Day : 01 May :-

Every year on May 1, International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day in most countries, is observed. The day is a worldwide celebration of labourers. The day, popularly known as May Day, is observed in countries such as India, Cuba, and China, among others. Labour Day commemorates past labour struggles against violations of workers' rights, such as long workdays and weeks, poor working conditions, and child labour. In many countries, the first of May is a national holiday. May Day, also known as Labour Day in India, is known by a variety of names, including 'Kamgar din' or 'Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas' in Hindi. More than 80 countries (including India) celebrate Labour Day as a holiday. It was made mandatory for the organisations of all countries to not work on May Day.



World Laughter Day (first Sunday of May) :-

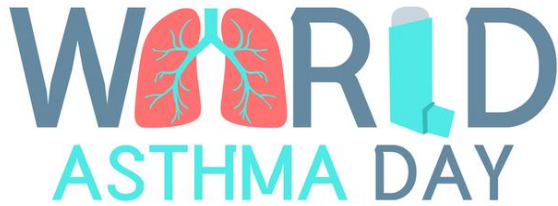
World Laughter Day is observed on the first Sunday of May each year, and this year's date is May 1. World Laughter Day has been observed annually since 1998 in order to raise awareness about laughter and its numerous healing benefits. Dr. Madan Kataria, the founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement, organised the first celebration on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai, India. The commemoration of World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation of world peace, with the goal of raising global awareness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter. It is most often celebrated by gatherings of people in public places with the sole purpose of laughing.



World Press Freedom Day : 03 May :-

People all over the world observe World Press Freedom Day every year on May 3rd. It is a day to discuss and celebrate press freedom, to defend the media against attacks, and to recognise the efforts of journalists all over the world who bring us news. In many countries, journalists face danger while carrying out their professional duties. The purpose of the day is to recognise the difficulties that people in the media face, as well as to remind governments to respect press freedom. The day is observed to ensure the press's protection and safety in the face of attacks on its independence, to discuss journalistic ethics, and to

honour journalists who have given their lives in the pursuit of truth. World Press Day remind us that many publications and their editors and reporters are often prevented from doing their jobs, censored and banned. Many get imprisoned or killed even. This year's World Press Freedom Day theme is "Journalism under digital siege".



World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May) :-

Every year on the first Tuesday of May, World Asthma Day is observed. It falls on May 3 this year. It is an annual event organised by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) in collaboration with health care groups and asthma educators to raise awareness and care for people suffering from asthma all over the world. Every May, World Asthma Day is observed to raise awareness of Asthma around the world. Its goal is to educate people on how to best control this respiratory condition and other allergic diseases. In 1998, more than 35 countries observed World Asthma Day, which coincided with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain. Since then, the day has grown to be one of the most significant asthma awareness events. This year's the World Asthma Day theme is "Closing Gaps in Asthma Care".



World Athletics Day : 07 May :-

World Athletics Day was founded in 2003 by the Worldwide Newbie Athletic Federation to promote athletic participation among children. It is now part of the International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) social accountability project, 'Athletics for a Greater World.' At a time when obesity-related problems have become the norm, it is critical to raise public awareness about health and fitness through sports. World Athletics Day was first observed in 1996, when it was initiated by the Federation's then-president, Primo Nebiolo. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) is the world governing body for the sport of space athletics and track and field. It was founded on July 17, 1912, in Stockholm (Sweden). This day is observed around the world to raise awareness about the importance of fitness among children and youth. In addition, to increase their participation in sports.



Mother's Day (Second Sunday of May) :-

Every year, Mother's Day is observed to honour mothers, who play an enormously important role in one's life. Every year on the second Sunday of May, this special day is observed. It will be celebrated this year on May 8, 2022. Mothers are selfless, shower their children with unconditional love, and sacrifice all of their needs for their families. Our mothers do everything for us, from feeding us to teaching us manners. While Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May in India, it is observed on different days in other countries around the

world. On Christian Mothering Sunday, it is observed in the United Kingdom on the fourth Sunday of March to honour the Mother Church. As for Greeks, they celebrate the festival on February 2.



Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti : 09 May :-

The birth anniversary of the exceptional literary icon, Rabindranath Tagore, falls on May 7, which has special significance both globally and annually. This day is widely celebrated as Rabindra Jayanti, but it is also known as Ponchishe Boishakh because it falls on the 25th day of the Bengali month Boishakh. He was born in Jorasanko Thakurbari, Kolkata, in 1861. Tagore was born in 1268 according to the Bengali calendar. He was the 14th child in a family of 14 children. This year marks the 161st anniversary of the birth of the Bard of Bengal. In 1913, he became the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature for his collection of selected poetry, Gitanjali. The Nobel Prize winner was a proponent of the Bengali Renaissance. Tagore was well-versed in the worlds of theatre, recitals (both Bengali and Western), classical music, and literary debates. He advocated for humanism and universalism.



National Technology Day : 11 May :-

Every year on May 11, National Technology Day is observed to honour the accomplishments of scientists, researchers, engineers, and others involved in the field of science and technology. It is a day to remind Indians of the country's technological advancements. On May 11, 1999, the day was first observed. India successfully conducted three nuclear tests on May 11, 1998, at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. The tests were carried out as part of the operation Shakti. On May 13, two more nuclear tests were carried out. All of the tests were overseen by the late A P J Abdul Kalam, India's eleventh president. India also tested its first indigenous aircraft, the Hansa-3, designed by the National Aerospace Laboratory, on May 11, 1998, in Bengaluru.



International Day of Families : 15 May :-

On May 15, the United Nations observes International Day of Families around the world. The day is observed to highlight important issues important to the welfare of families, such as health, education, gender equality, children's rights, and social inclusion, among others. The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to raise awareness of family issues and increase knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes that affect families. The United Nations is gearing up for the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024, with the goal of raising awareness of megatrends and developing responsive family-oriented policies to combat their effects. Megatrends including

new technologies, demographic shifts, rapid urbanization, and migration trends, as well as climate change, have been dramatically shaping our world. This year's theme for International Day of Families is "Families and Urbanization".



National Anti-Terrorism Day : 21 May :-

Every year on May 21, India commemorates Anti-Terrorism Day. The goal of observing this day is to wean youth away from terrorism and the cult of violence by highlighting common people's suffering and demonstrating how it is detrimental to national interests. On this date in 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. This year marks the 31st anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi's death as India observes Anti-Terrorism Day. The official declaration of National Anti-Terrorism Day was made on May 21, 1991, following the assassination of India's seventh Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi. He was killed in Tamil Nadu during a terrorist campaign. Then, under the V.P. Singh government, the center has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.



International Day for Biological Diversity : 22 May :-

Every year on May 22, the International Day for Biological Diversity is observed to raise awareness and understanding of the biodiversity crisis. Biodiversity is critical to maintaining the earth's balance. Biological diversity is the foundation of ecosystem services, which are inextricably linked to human well-being. Our natural world is made up of a wide range of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms such as bacteria. Each of these species and organisms collaborate in ecosystems to maintain balance and support life, much like an intricate web. If one of them becomes extinct, the others will become endangered as well. The theme, for this year's International Day for Biological Diversity is "Building a Shared Future For All Life".



World No Tobacco Day : 31 May :-

On May 31 observed around the world every year, World No Tobacco Day was established by WHO Member States in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes. This annual celebration aims to raise awareness among global citizens about not only the dangers of tobacco use, but also the business practises of tobacco companies, what WHO is doing to combat the tobacco epidemic, and what people all over the world can do to assert their right to health and healthy living, as well as to protect future generations. This year, the theme of World No Tobacco Day is "Tobacco: Threat to our environment".

2: Agreements



Kerala Signed MoU With The Netherlands For “Cosmos Malabaricus” Project :-

Kerala and the Netherlands have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the 'Cosmos Malabaricus' project, which will help to further illustrate Kerala's history in the 18th century. The state will also work with the European country to establish painting academies in Kollam and Malappuram. The agreements were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Marten van den Berg, the Netherlands' Ambassador to India. The Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR), in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, the National Archives of the Netherlands, and the University of Leiden, is carrying out the Cosmos Malabaricus project. The project will take six years to complete.



Netflix & GoI Collaborate For Video Series On ‘Women Change-Makers’ :-

To create a short video series documenting the lives of "women change-makers" who have "broken the glass ceiling" in various fields the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry (I&B) announced a partnership with OTT platform Netflix. Anurag Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, stated that the goal of this collaboration is to "develop a creative ecosystem by organising training programmes" for filmmakers across the country. The project was launched during an event called 'Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya,' which was an extension of the ongoing "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations, which were inaugurated on March 12 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Three short videos were released at the launch that demonstrated the achievements of Basanti Devi, a Padma-award winning environmentalist known for her efforts to save the Kosi river, Anshu Jamsenpa, a Padma Shri awardee who scaled Mount Everest twice in 2017, and Harshini Kanhekar, India’s first female firefighter.



Telangana And Google Have Inked A MOU On Digital Economy For Young And Women :-

To bring the benefits of the digital economy to young and female entrepreneurs Google has signed a Memorandum

of Understanding with the Telangana government, and has also begun construction on a three million square foot building in the city. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao. According to a Google release, the new initiative will see Google collaborate with the government through its various arms to provide scholarships for Google Career Certificates to Telangana's youth, support women entrepreneurs through digital, business, and financial skills training, and strengthen the government's school modernisation efforts with digital teaching and learning tools and solutions.



Railway Ministry Signs An Agreement With C-DOT To Upgrade Railway Telecommunications :-

The railway ministry has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for the modernisation of telecommunication facilities related to operations and safety, according to a statement from the ministry. The agreement aims to establish a collaborative working partnership between the ministry and C-DOT for resource sharing and coordination. C-DOT and the ministry will collaborate to modernise telecommunications in the national transporter for public safety and security services using LTE-R, a next-generation communications network dedicated to railway services that enables high-speed wireless voice and data communications inside trains, from train to

ground, and from train to train, according to the announcement. It would also help the railways follow world standards in line with 'Make in India' policy, it said.



Indian Army Red Shield Division Signs MoU For 'Manipur Super 50' :-

The Indian Army has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Centre for Excellence and Wellness for coaching and making underprivileged Manipur students eligible for admission to India's best colleges and universities. According to the Army, "Continuing sustained initiative to secure a better future for the youth of Manipur by the Indian Army, Red Shield Division under the aegis of Spear Corps has signed a Tripartite MoU with corporate partner State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) and training partner National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO)." The MoU signing ceremony was held in Leimakhong to establish the "Red Shield Centre for Excellence and Wellness," which will be located in Manipur's Bishnupur district.



Prasar Bharati And ORTM Inked MOU On Cooperation And Collaboration In Broadcasting :-

In Madagascar's capital Antananarivo an MoU on cooperation and collaboration in broadcasting was signed by Prasar Bharati and ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television). Ambassador Abhay Kumar and Mr. BELALAHY Jean Yves, Director General of ORTM, signed the agreement. The ceremony was attended by the Director of Cabinet to the Ministry of Communication and Culture, as well as representatives from the Madagascar government. The MoU aims to exchange programmes, investigate co-production of programmes, and train/exchange personnel. The TVM (Madagascar National Television) will air programmes from Prasar Bharati's internal productions in the fields of culture, education, science, entertainment, sports, news, and other areas of mutual interest.

financial service requirements of corporate customers operating along the India-UK corridor. ICICI Bank stated that it will provide banking solutions to UK corporates operating in India in areas such as trade, cross-border payments, supply chain, treasury solutions, and retail banking, while Santander UK will assist Indian corporates and new age businesses with their banking needs in the UK.



UNDP And Agriculture Ministry Signs MoU For Credit Strategic Partnership :-

ICICI Bank And Santander UK Partners For Business Ease Between India And UK :-

ICICI Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, has announced a partnership with Santander Bank in the United Kingdom to help corporates operating in both countries with their banking needs. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in Mumbai by ICICI and Santander UK Plc is intended to establish a framework of partnership between the banks in order to meet the

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) wherein UNDP will provide technical support towards Centre's aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme & Kisan Credit Card – Modified Interest Subvention Scheme. The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar by CEO-PMFBY Ritesh Chauhan and UNDP Resident Representative Shoko Noda. Under the MoU, UNDP will leverage its expertise in systems and global know-how for supporting the Ministry of Agriculture for the implementation of combined agriculture credit and crop insurance.



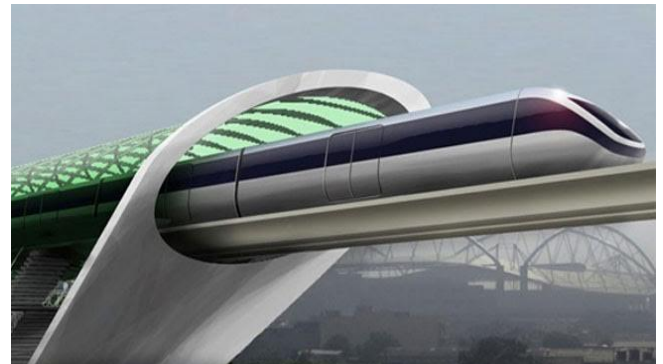
Patanjali Food Business Will Be Acquired By Ruchi Soya For Rs. 690 Crore :-

Ruchi Soya, an edible oil company, has announced the acquisition of Patanjali Ayurved's food business for approximately Rs 690 crore. This is expected to accelerate Ruchi Soya's transition to the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. After regulatory approvals, the name of Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd will be changed to Patanjali Foods Ltd. The acquired food company offers 21 different products, including ghee, honey, spices, juices, and flour. According to a company source, Ruchi Soya will pay Patanjali Ayurved an annual royalty estimated at 1% of the gross turnover of the products under the transfer agreement. According to the source, it is a debt-free transfer, and Ruchi Soya will fund the acquisition through internal accruals.



RBL Bank and Amazon Pay ties up to offer UPI payment :-

To offer Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments RBL Bank, a private sector lender, has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) . According to a statement, "The bank has partnered with Amazon Pay to offer peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions". Amazon Pay will issue NPCI's assigned UPI ID with the handle @rapl to RBL Bank as part of this integration, according to the company. "The partnership will allow the bank to tap Amazon Pay's growing customer base and transaction volumes," the bank said, adding that the move will expand the bank's presence in the UPI segment through its payment processing platform hosted on AWS.



Indian Railways And IIT Madras Partner To Develop India's First Indigenous Hyperloop :-

According to a report, the Ministry of Railways has announced a collaboration with IIT Madras to develop a made-in-India Hyperloop system. It has also announced the establishment of a Hyperloop Technology Centre of Excellence at the aforementioned institution. Hyperloop is a high-speed transportation concept in which pressurised vehicles (or pods) travel through a low-pressure tunnel, allowing for almost no resistance movement through the atmosphere, similar to air travel. The pods would move using mag-lev technology, which would allow for a frictionless ride. Apart from being

extremely fast, it is also environmentally friendly because it consumes less power than an electric train and emits no emissions, unlike an aircraft or a diesel locomotive.



India-Jordan Struck An Agreement To Cooperate In Fertilisers Sector :-

A high-level delegation led by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya visited Jordan from May 13 to 15, in a first-of-its-kind initiative, with the goal of securing fertilisers and raw materials for both the short and long term. The trip took place against the backdrop of the ongoing global fertiliser crisis. "MOUs were signed with Jordan Phosphate Mining Company (JPMC) for supplies of 30 LMT Rock Phosphate, 2.50 LMT DAP, 1 LMT phosphoric acid for the current year with the Indian public, cooperative and private sector companies," Mandaviya said. He also stated that

India has signed a five-year MoU with Jordan for annual supplies of 2.75 LMT, which will gradually increase to 3.25 LMT.



BCCI Signed Up NFT Partner For Women's T20 Challenge:-

For the Women's T20 Challenge 2022 the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has named FanCraze as an official partner and accomplice. The BCCI has also signed My11Circle as the Title Sponsor, as well as Boost and CEAT as Official Partners of the Women's T20 Challenge 2022. This occurred at a time when the International Cricket Council (ICC) and its other component entities had already begun formalising partnerships with NFT companies. This also provides NFT with a suitable platform to establish themselves in the country's men's cricket market, which is as large as any game on the planet.

3: Appointments



Haj Committee of India elects AP Abdullahkutty as chairperson :-

According to the government, A P Abdullahkutty has been elected chairperson of the Haj Committee of India, and for the first time, two women have been chosen as vice chairpersons. Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi congratulated the new office-bearers and expressed delight at the election of two women as vice chairpersons, Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun.

Abdullahkutty is a former Member of Parliament and the BJP's national vice president. Munnawari Begum is a member of the Central Waqf Council, and Mafuja Khatun is the vice president of the BJP's Bengal unit.



Aditya Birla Capital Named Vishakha Mulye As Next CEO :-

Vishakha Mulye will take over as CEO of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL) in June, according to the company. Mulye, an ICICI Bank executive director in charge of wholesale banking, trading, markets, and transaction banking, has been a banker for 30 years in various roles and was the CEO of ICICI Venture, the bank's private equity arm, before taking over as executive director in November 2015. Mulye will look to accelerate the flow of capital, reduce funding costs, and expand the 13 segments to create synergies for the group's 31 million customers across different businesses to make the whole greater than the sum of its parts at ABCL. Mulye's banking experience will come in handy as the non banking finance company (NBFC) transitions towards a tougher scale-based regulations as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



TCS' Krishnan Ramanujam Appointed As Nasscom Chairperson For 2022-23 :-

Nasscom has announced the appointment of Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Enterprise Growth Group at Tata Consultancy Services, as its Chairperson for 2022-23. Ramanujam takes over for Rekha M. Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India. The new Nasscom leadership, along with President Debjani Ghosh, will guide the industry body through its diverse set of priorities in order to achieve the industry's 2025 vision. In response to the changing industry landscape, the key priorities will be to re-align and re-calibrate the technology industry's course to maximise growth from technology potential to technology impact, reimagine India as the preferred hub for digital talent, innovation, and impact at scale, and shape the next frontiers of digital next to catalyse future-readiness for the techade.



Bruce De Broize Appointed As MD & CEO Of Future Generali India Life Insurance :-

Bruce de Broize has been named managing director and chief executive officer of Future Generali India Life Insurance by Generali Asia (FGILI). The appointment comes on the heels of Generali's decision to consolidate its position in FGILI by completing the transaction to become the majority stakeholder. Since joining the company, Bruce de Broize has been a driving force. "He's

proven to be an effective leader at driving strategic initiatives and managing profitable growth which will be a huge asset for our business in India. We are confident in his ability to capitalise on the growth opportunities ahead and have seen first-hand his commitment to our people, our customers, our business partners and our agents," said Rob Leonardi, regional officer, Asia.



Vijay Sampla Appointed NCSC Chairperson For Second Time :-

Vijay Sampla, a BJP leader and former Union minister, has been appointed chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for the second time. President Ram Nath Kovind issued the official order for his appointment. Sampla resigned as NCSC chairman ahead of the Punjab elections and ran for election. As the sarpanch of Sofipind village in Jalandhar Cantonment Sampla, a prominent Dalit politician from Punjab, began his political career in 1998. He has also held positions in the Punjab government. From 2008 to 2012, he was the chairman of the Punjab Khadi Board, and in 2014, he was the chairman of the Punjab State Forest Development Corporation.



Former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar Joined Indifi Technologies As Advisor :-

Indifi Technologies, an online lending platform, has announced the appointment of Rajnish Kumar, the former chairman of SBI, as an advisor. Kumar is also the chairman of the BharatPe board of directors. Kumar will work with management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector as an advisor, according to a statement from online lender Indifi. Kumar has a long and distinguished career in banking and finance. He currently serves on the boards of several companies, including HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp, and BharatPe. The MSME sector and its credit gap has been a major issue for India. Indifi is making significant and impressive progress in this area.



Anshul Swami Named As MD-CEO Of Shivalik Small Finance Bank :-

Anshul Swami has been named Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Shivalik Small Finance Bank, effective April 26. Swami's new responsibilities include establishing Shivalik as a digital-first bank with a focus on small businesses and expanding the bank's footprint across the country. Swami has over 20 years of experience working in various customer segments such as Retail, MSME, Microfinance, and Agri. Swami

previously worked for RBL Bank as the Head of Retail & Inclusion, Products. He has also worked for Barclays, Citi Financial, and Britannia. Swami, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM Lucknow), brings experience in product and portfolio management, digital lending, rural branch banking, business planning and implementation, sales, and underwriting to the table.



Vinay Mohan Kwatra Assumes Charge As India's New Foreign Secretary :-

Vinay Mohan Kwatra, a seasoned diplomat, has taken over as India's new foreign secretary at a time when New Delhi is dealing with a number of geopolitical developments, including the Ukraine crisis. Kwatra, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 1988 batch, took over for Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who recently retired. Before taking over as foreign secretary, Kwatra served as India's envoy to Nepal. Kwatra is well-known for his extensive experience dealing with India's neighbours, as well as the United States, China, and Europe. He took over as foreign secretary at a time when India is dealing with a number of geopolitical developments, including the Ukraine conflict, a severe economic crisis in Sri Lanka, the situation in Afghanistan, and Indo-Pacific developments. Before his diplomatic posting to Nepal in 2020, he served as the Ambassador of India to France from August 2017 to February 2020.



Lt Gen BS Raju Appointed As Vice Chief Of Indian Army :-

Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju has been appointed as the Indian Army's Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) on May 1, 2022, in recognition of his distinguished 38-year career. Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju, an alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and the National Defence Academy, was commissioned in the Indian Army's JAT Regiment on December 15, 1984. Among his accomplishments was commanding his Battalion during 'Operation Parakran' in the Western Theater and in Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, the Lieutenant-General commands the Uri brigade along the Line of Control (LOC), a Counter-Insurgency Force, and the Chinar Corps in the Kashmir Valley. In Bhutan, he was also the Commandant of the Indian Military Training Team. During his 38-year career, the Lieutenant General received the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Yudh Seva Medal.



Former Amazon Music CEO Sahas Malhotra Joins JioSaavn As CEO :-

JioSaavn, a music app, has appointed Sahas Malhotra, a former Amazon Music director and entertainment industry veteran, as its new CEO. Malhotra previously worked for Sony Music India and Tips Industries. Sahas was the business leader at Tips Music and the marketing director for Tips Film Production at Tips Industries. "Based out of the company's headquarters in Mumbai, Sahas will lead the company's endeavours in a constantly evolving and exciting Indian market. Sahas brings over 24 years of elaborate experience in the entertainment industry, in building teams, film marketing, music P&L management, licensing, media planning, music publishing and product management," JioSaavn made the announcement in a statement. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) acquired a majority stake in the company in March 2018.

issued an order stating that Singh, a 1986-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) of the Income Tax cadre, "shall discharge the duties and responsibilities of the post of chairman, CBDT in addition to her own duties for a period of three months or till a regular Chairman is appointed, whichever is earlier."



Ex- Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor Appointed As Advisor To PM Modi :-

According to an order issued by the Personnel Ministry former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor has been appointed as an advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kapoor, a Himachal Pradesh cadre IAS officer from the 1987 batch, was retired as secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021. The Cabinet Appointments Committee has approved Kapoor's appointment as advisor to the Prime Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in the rank and scale of Secretary to the Government of India, for a period of two years from the date of joining, it said. Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra, both senior bureaucrats, have been appointed as additional secretaries in the PMO. Rao, a 1994-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently Administrator, Universal Services Obligation Fund in the Department of Telecommunications.



Sangeeta Singh Appointed As Chairman Of CBDT :-

After incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30, Sangeeta Singh, a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been given additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). In September of last year, Mohapatra, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the Income Tax department, was appointed as the full-time chairman. The Union Finance Ministry



Rajiv Ranjan Nomination As Ex-Officio Member Of Monetary Policy Committee, Approved By RBI Board :-

On Monday, May 2, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 595th meeting of its central board of directors. The meeting was held via video conferencing, according to the RBI, and was presided over by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The board approved Dr. Rajiv Ranjan's nomination as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The meeting was attended by deputy governors and other central board directors. The meeting was also attended by Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs. "The Board approved the nomination of Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Executive Director as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee," the RBI stated following the meeting. Ranjan was an advisor in-charge in the monetary policy department, before he was elevated as an executive director.



Nand Mulchandani Named As 1st-Ever Chief Tech Officer Of CIA :-

Nand Mulchandani, an Indian-American Silicon Valley IT expert, has been named the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) first Chief Technology Officer. William J Burns, the director of the CIA, announced the appointment on social media. "CIA Director William J. Burns appoints Nand Mulchandani as CIA's first Chief Technology Officer (CTO). With more than 25 years of experience, Mr. Mulchandani will ensure the Agency is leveraging cutting-edge innovations to further CIA's mission," the CIA said in a tweet. Mulchandani attended Bluebells International School in Delhi from 1979 to 1987 before attending Cornell University. He finished his undergraduate studies in computer science and mathematics.



IBM Chairman Arvind Krishna Elected To The Board Of Federal Reserve Bank Of New York :-

Arvind Krishna, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IBM, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, he was elected as a Class B director and will represent the public "with due but not exclusive consideration to the interests of agriculture, commerce, industry, services, labour and consumers". According to the New York Fed, he will fill the vacancy in the office for the remainder of a three-year term that ends on December 31, 2023. Reserve bank

directors serve as a link between the Fed Reserve and the private sector, ensuring that the Fed's monetary policy decisions are informed by actual economic conditions.



InterGlobe Aviation Appointed Venkataramani Sumantran As Chairman, Board Of Directors :-

Venkataramani Sumantran, an independent non-executive director since May 2020, has been named chairman of the IndiGo Board, succeeding Meleveetil Damodaran. "Sumantran is an outstanding business leader as well as a highly experienced member of the IndiGo Board, thereby facilitating a seamless transition of the Chairmanship of the Board," said IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia in welcoming Sumantran to the new position. "As we get ready for the next phase of our ambitious overseas expansion, Sumantran's understanding of international markets and world-class global practices will serve us well," he added. Sumantran is the chairman and managing Director of Celeris Technologies, a strategic advisory firm, and has worked in the United States, Europe, and Asia.



Sudarshan Venu Has Been Named The Managing Director Of TVS Motor Company :-

Sudarshan Venu has been named managing director of TVS Motor Company, the company announced in a statement. According to the company, Venu has been charting the future of the two-wheeler manufacturer and has played a pivotal role in the company's growth in domestic and key international markets, including Asia, Africa, and, more recently, Europe. Sudarshan's extraordinary efforts, according to TVS Motor Company Chairman Emeritus Venu Srinivasan, have resulted in key decisions to develop aspirational products and grow quickly in India and abroad. He also said "He has also led some key acquisitions and the expansion of group companies. We are confident that under his leadership, TVS Motor will transform into a leading mobility player globally,".



Alkesh Kumar Sharma Appointed As Ministry Of Electronics And IT's Secretary :-

Alkesh Kumar Sharma, a senior IAS officer, has been appointed secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Sharma previously served as the Kerala government's additional chief secretary-industries from May 2020 to April 2021. Sharma served as the Managing Director of Kochi Metro Rail and the CEO of the Cochin Smart City Mission from September 2019 to April 2021. Sharma, a Kerala cadre IAS officer, will be in charge of ensuring the smooth implementation of the \$10 billion semiconductor

incentive scheme designed to boost chip manufacturing and design facilities in the country. Sharma will also be expected to carry out MEITY's 1,000-day agenda, which aims to transform India into a \$1 trillion digital economy over the next few years.



Rajiv Kumar Appointed As Next Chief Election Commissioner :-

On May 15 Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar took over as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), succeeding outgoing CEC Sushil Chandra, who retired on May 14. Mr. Kumar stated shortly after taking office that the Election Commission of India (ECI) had done a lot over the previous 70 years to ensure free and fair elections. The Commission will follow the time-tested and democratic methods of consultations and consensus building in bringing about any major reforms responsible under the Constitution. ECI will not shy away from tough decisions," he stated. Mr. Kumar, who has been an Election Commissioner since September 1, 2020, would most likely be in charge of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections because his term runs until 2025.



Sanjiv Bajaj Appointed As President Of Confederation Of Indian Industry :-

Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv, has been appointed President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). He has been elected President of CII for 2022-23. He succeeds TV Narendran, CEO and Managing Director of Tata Steel Limited. At a meeting, the newly formed National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) elected its new office-bearers for the year 2022-23. Pawan Munjal, Chairman and CEO of Hero MotoCorp, has been named CII President-Designate, and R Dinesh, Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has been named Vice President for 2022-23.



Nidhi Chibber Named As CBSE New Chief :-

In a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle, senior IAS officer Nidhi Chibber has been appointed chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Chibber, a Chhattisgarh cadre Indian Administrative Service officer from the 1994 batch, is currently the Ministry of Heavy Industries' Additional Secretary. According to an order issued by the Personnel Ministry, she has been appointed as the chairperson of CBSE in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the Government of India. Vivek Kumar Dewangen, a Manipur cadre IAS officer from the 1993 batch, has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd., Ministry of Power. He is currently the Ministry of Power's Additional Secretary.



Sitikantha Pattanaik And Rajiv Ranjan, Named Executive Directors By The RBI :-

The appointment of Sitikantha Patnaik and Rajeev Ranjan as executive directors with effect from May 01 has been announced by RBI. Ranjan will also serve as an ex-officio member of the rate-setting panel Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Pattanaik was an Adviser in the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) before being promoted to ED, while Ranjan was Adviser-in-Charge of the Monetary Policy Department and Secretary to the MPC. Pattanaik will oversee the Department of Economic and Policy Research as Executive Director (ED), while Ranjan will oversee the Monetary Policy Department. Ranjan holds a PhD in economics from Mumbai University as well as a Masters in economics from the Delhi School of Economics.



Sunil Arora, India's Former Chief EC, Has Been Named Chairman Of Gram Unnati :-

Gram Unnati announced the appointment of Sunil Arora, a former chief election commissioner, as its new non-executive chairman of the board. Arora is a retired civil

servant (IAS) with over 36 years of experience. He was secretary to two key ministries: the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. "We are delighted to have Sunil Arora join us. It is an honour to work under his esteemed guidance and supervision. His rich experience, insights, and direction will enable Gram Unnati to further improve its market-linked solution for farmers and sustainably enhance their incomes," according to Aneesh Jain, the CEO and founder of Gram Unnati.



Eicher Motors Named B Govindarajan As New CEO Of Royal Enfield :-

B Govindarajan has been elevated Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Royal Enfield by Eicher Motors. Govind has worked for Royal Enfield and Eicher Motors for over 23 years. He has been the Executive Director of Royal Enfield since August 2021, and the company's Chief Operating Officer since 2013. "He has led several turnkey projects and has been instrumental in growing and expanding the company's manufacturing facilities, in addition to bringing a paradigm shift in the product quality and new product development process." the company said in a statement. He has actively led the production ramp up at Royal Enfield and spearheaded the establishment of its two new world-class manufacturing facilities at Oragadam and Vallam Vadagal near Chennai and the state-of-the-art Technology Centres in the UK and in Chennai, India.



BSE Appointed Ex RBI Deputy Governor SS Mundra As Chairman :-

Leading stock exchange the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has announced that its board of directors has appointed S S Mundra, a public interest director, as chairman of the exchange. SS Mundra retired as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India on July 30, 2017, after a three-year tenure. He was also the RBI's representative on the Financial Stability Board (G20 Forum) and its various committees. In addition, he served as Vice-Chair of the OECD's International Network on Financial Education (INFE). Mundra will take over for Justice Vikramajit Sen."This is to inform that the board of directors of the company on Monday had considered and approved the appointment of S S Mundra, public interest director, as the chairman of the board of directors of the company, subject to approval of Sebi," BSE said in a regulatory filing.



Bharti Airtel Re-Appoints Gopal Vittal As MD And CEO For 5 Years :-

Bharti Airtel, India's second largest telecom company, announced that its board of directors has reappointed Gopal Vittal as Managing Director and CEO for a five-year term ending January 31, 2028."We wish to inform you that based on the recommendations of HR & nomination committee and subject to the approval of shareholders, the Board of Directors has approved the re-appointment of Gopal Vittal, Managing Director designated as 'Managing Director & CEO' for a further period of five (5) years i.e. from February 01, 2023 to January 31, 2028," Airtel said in a notice to stock exchanges. The reappointment came on the same day that the telecom company reported consolidated net profit of Rs 2,007.8 crore in the March quarter, an increase of 141 percent sequentially and 164 percent year on year.



IndiGo Appoints Pieter Elbers As CEO :-

The appointment of Pieter Elbers as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been announced by IndiGo airline. Elbers will take office on or before October 1st, pending approval. Elbers has been the President and CEO of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines since 2014. Elbers succeeds Ronojoy Dutta, who has decided to retire on September 30, 2022, after guiding IndiGo through the turbulent Covid period, according to a statement from the airline."The Board of Directors and I would like to thank Rono for effectively leading our business for almost four years with a steady hand through what has been the

most turbulent period in the airline's history and aviation globally," said Rahul Bhatia, Managing Director of IndiGo.



Salil Parekh Re-Appointed MD & CEO Of Infosys :-

In a regulatory filing, Infosys announced the reappointment of Salil Parekh as CEO and MD of the company for another five years. Parekh will be the only non-founder CEO to serve a second term at the helm of the company. According to the company's filing, the Board of Directors of the company, acting on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC), has reappointed Parekh as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the company from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027, subject to shareholder approval. The reappointment of Parekh is significant because it provides much-needed continuity at the top level.



Vijay Shekhar Sharma Re-Appointed As MD And CEO Of Paytm :-

Vijay Shekhar Sharma founder of Paytm has been re-appointed as the fintech company's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, according to a statement. Sharma has been reappointed to the position for a five-year term beginning December 19, 2022. In the same notification, the company also stated that Madhur Deora, the company's Chief Financial Officer, has been appointed as an Additional Director for a five-year term beginning May 20, 2022. One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, announced the formation of Paytm General Insurance Limited (PGIL), a joint venture general insurance company in which it has committed to invest Rs 950 crore over a 10-year period.



IFS Vivek Kumar appointed as new private secretary to PM Modi:-

Vivek Kumar, a 2004 batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Personal Secretary (PS) at the Joint Secretary level. The Cabinet Appointments Committee approved Vivek Kumar's appointment as Modi's personal secretary. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal for appointment of Vivek Kumar, IFS (2004) as PS to Prime Minister at the Joint Secretary level in the Prime Minister's Office with pay at level 14 of the pay matrix," the Department of Personnel and Training said in a statement. Vivek Kumar is a 2004 batch IFS officer who joined the Prime Minister's Office as a Deputy Secretary in 2014.



Vinai Kumar Saxena Appointment As Delhi's New Lieutenant Governor :-

Former chairperson of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Vinai Kumar Saxena, took the oath as

the 22nd Lieutenant Governor of the national capital, more than a week after his predecessor Anil Bajjal resigned for personal reasons. Saxena, 64, is the first Delhi LG from a non-bureaucratic and non-defense background. The chief justice of the Delhi High Court, Vipin Sanghi, swore him in as the new LG at a simple ceremony at Raj Niwas. Saxena spent three decades in the private sector before leading the central government's Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for six years. The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his cabinet ministers. The meeting was also attended by MLAs from the BJP and AAP.

4: Awards



Sir David Attenborough Won UN 'Champion Of The Earth Lifetime Achievement Award' :-

The United Nations Environment Programme has named Sir David Attenborough a Champion of the Earth. The prestigious award honours the 95-year-old's dedication to telling stories about nature and climate change. Sir David accepted the award and stated that the world must act now to protect nature and the planet. The Green Planet and A Plastic Ocean are two of his well-known documentaries. Sir David began working on natural history programmes in the 1950s, and his programmes, which were shot in remote parts of the world, became hugely popular. His warnings about the

harm that climate change is causing the planet and humans have become more dire in the last four years.



Max Verstappen Named Laureus Sportsman Of The Year 2022 :-

Max Verstappen, the world champion of Formula One, has been named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2022 in a digital ceremony hosted from Seville. Verstappen of Red Bull Racing, who won his first World Championship at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in December after a tense duel with Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, said: "I was very happy, of course, but it was a lot of hard work and years of preparation. I'm incredibly proud. Since I

was a little kid I dreamt of being on the top step and winning the championship”. Max Verstappen triumphed over tennis legend Novak Djokovic, footballer Robert Lewandowski, American football star Tom Brady, American swimming star Caeleb Dressel, and Kenyan athlete Eluid Kipchoge to win the title.



Meghalaya E-Proposal System Grabbed Prestigious UN Award :-

The state planning department's key initiative of e-proposal system, which is part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), has won a prestigious UN Award — World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes, 2022. An official statement said “Meghalaya was selected among the top 360 projects across the world, in the beginning of the year. Out of these, UN selects top 5 in 18 categories and awards them as Champion Project. Meghalaya has been selected by UN as Champion Project in the category of ‘the role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development’, along with projects from Australia, China, Argentina and Tanzania”. Meghalaya's e-proposal system is also expected to win the winner award, with the prize ceremony taking place on May 31 in Geneva, Switzerland said in a statement.



UK's Commonwealth Points Of Light Award Won By Kishore Kumar Das :-

Kishore Kumar Das, the founder of the educational charity 'Bidyanando' from Bangladesh, has been chosen for the Commonwealth Points of Light Award by the United Kingdom for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds. United Kingdom's Commonwealth Point of Light Awards recognises outstanding individual volunteers who are making a difference in their community. Kishore has also launched a meal programme called 'Ek takay aahar' (Meal for One Taka), which has provided over 10,000 nutritious meals to vulnerable people, particularly children and the homeless. During the Corona pandemic, Bidyanando increased its efforts to distribute aid throughout the country.



India Pharma And India Medical Devices Awards 2022 :-

The Department of Pharmaceuticals and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has organised the 7th edition of India Pharma and Indian Medical Device 2022, which has announced the India Pharma Awards 2022, and India Medical Device Awards 2022, to various pharmaceutical and medical device industry players, which were handed over by Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers on April 27. Cipla Ltd received the Indian Pharma Leader of the Year award, while Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd received the India Pharma Innovation of the Year award. Micro Labs Ltd has won the Indian Pharma (Formulation) Award. For its works in rural healthcare Zydus Lifesciences Ltd has been announced as the winner of Indian Pharma CSR of the year award.

Honorary Consul, he has saw 14 Peruvian Presidents and 15 Peruvian Ambassadors to India.



BRO's Atal Tunnel Receives 'Best Infrastructure Project' Award :-

Engineering marvel the Atal Tunnel, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Rohtang, Himachal Pradesh, was named the Indian Building Congress' (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award in New Delhi. The award was nominated by more than thirty cutting-edge infrastructure projects. The IBC jury named the strategic tunnel the 2021 'Best Project for Excellence in Built Environment.' Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General of the BRO, received the award during the 25th annual convention of the IBC for the BRO's achievement in constructing this tunnel connecting Manali to the Lahaul-Spiti valley. The tunnel, besides offering the armed forces a strategic advantage by providing an alternate link to the critical Ladakh sector, has also been a boon for the residents of Lahaul and Spiti District in Himachal Pradesh. Lt General Chaudhry said while speaking on the occasion.



Ardeshir B K Dubash Honoured With Highest Diplomatic Award By Peru Government :-

Mr. Ardeshir B.K. Dubash, the former Honorary Consul of Peru in Mumbai, received the Order of Merit in the Diplomatic Service of Peru José Gregorio Paz Soldán, Peru's highest distinction, in a private ceremony held on Thursday, April 21st, 2022. The award was presented by H.E. Carlos R. Polo, Peruvian Ambassador in India, who travelled from Delhi to Mumbai for this special occasion, bringing the decoration issued by Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. César Landa. On August 13th, 1973, Mr. Dubash was appointed Honorary Consul of Peru. During his nearly half-century career as



Snow Leopard Conservationist Charudutt Mishra Wins Whitley Gold Award :-

Charudutt Mishra, a well-known snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist, has received the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for his work in involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems. Mishra received the award from Princess Anne at London's Royal Geographic Society. He is receiving his second Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) Award. He received his first in 2005. Mishra received the award from the UK-based wildlife conservation charity WFN for his work in 12 snow leopard range countries, including Afghanistan, China, and Russia, according to a statement. According to the statement, "The key to his success has been embedding conservation within local communities".



World Food Prize 2022 Received By NASA's Cynthia Rosenzweig :-

Cynthia Rosenzweig, a senior research scientist and head of the Climate Impacts Group at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York City, was named the 2022 World Food Prize winner by World Food Prize president Barbara Stinson. The World Food Prize (WFP) is an international award that recognises an individual's contributions to development by increasing the quantity, quality, or availability of food around the world. Rosenzweig, according to the president, has been involved in agriculture for several decades and has been

a leader in food and climate since the early 1980s. Cynthia Rosenzweig is a well-known climatologist and agronomist who established a project to study the effects of climate change on food supply. It was announced as the 2022 World Food Prize laureate.



Mamata Banerjee Received Special Bangla Academy Award :-

Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of Bengal, has received the Bangla Academy Award for her "relentless literary pursuit." Sahitya Academy presented Banerjee with the award this year for her book "Kabita Bitan," which honours West Bengal's best writers. Banerjee received the award at the "Ravi Pranam" function, which was organised by the government's information and culture department to commemorate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Bratya Basu, Education Minister and President of Bangla Academy, spoke from the stage, saying, "Bangla Academy has decided to reward those who are working tirelessly for the betterment of literature as well as other sectors of the society."



Indian Architect Balkrishna Doshi Honoured With Royal Gold Medal :-

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) awarded acclaimed architect Balkrishna Doshi the prestigious Royal Gold Medal 2022, one of the world's highest architectural honours. Doshi, 94, is the only Indian to have received both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize, also known as the Nobel Prize of architecture. He is credited with designing some of Ahmedabad's most recognisable structures. For the first time, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) president Simon Allford travelled to Ahmedabad to present the award to Doshi, as he was unable to travel to London due to his health.



Dr. Frank Wilczek Receives 2022 Templeton Prize :-

Known for his boundary-pushing investigations into nature's fundamental laws Frank Wilczek, the Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist and author, received this year's Templeton Prize, which is awarded to individuals whose life's work exemplifies a fusion of science and spirituality. Dr Frank Wilczek, an American theoretical physicist and author who received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2004, has been awarded the Templeton Prize 2022, the world's largest individual lifetime achievement award worth more than USD 1.3 million. He was the sixth Nobel laureate to receive the Templeton Prize since it was established in 1972. As a 2022 Templeton Prize laureate he will participate in

several virtual and in-person events, including a 2022 Templeton Prize event.



Kenyan Nurse Anna Qabale Duba Crowned World's Best Nurse :-

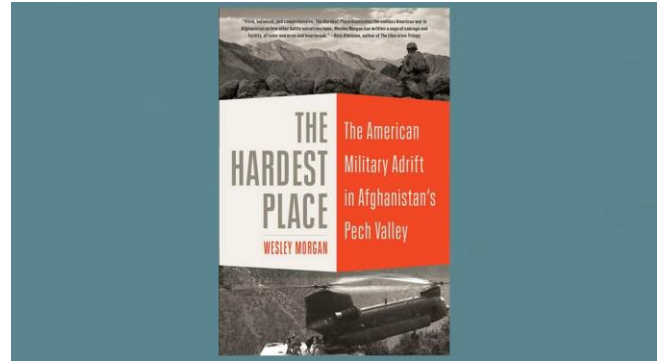
Kenyan Anna Qabale Duba has won the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award. The Kenyan nurse was honoured by a panel of judges for her dedication to assisting vulnerable women and children in Africa. The Kenyan mother of two, 31, has dedicated her life to assisting the vulnerable. She became the village's only graduate and began working with communities and their vulnerable members. While accepting the award, Duba, the only female graduate in her village, revealed that she had built a school in Marsabit through her Qabale Duba Foundation, which offers classes to young students and adults looking to get a good education during the day and evening, respectively.



Cameroonian Activist Wins Wangari Maathai Forest Champions' Award 2022 :-

Cécile Ndjebet, a Cameroonian activist, has won the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award for her outstanding contribution to preserving forests and improving the lives of those who rely on them. This award recognises Cécile Ndjebet's energy and dedication to promoting women's rights to land and forests over three decades. She has actively demonstrated that women's participation in forest governance and preservation is critical to achieving long-term forest management. The award was presented at a ceremony during the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

according to a statement from the British Deputy High Commission.



Wesley Morgan Won William E. Colby Award For His Book 'The Hardest Place' :-

This year's William E. Colby Award for military and intelligence writing goes to author and journalist Wesley Morgan. He was awarded for his book *The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley*. The Colby award, named after the former ambassador and CIA director, is given for "a major contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations or international affairs." It is worth \$5,000. Morgan began embedding with military units in Afghanistan more than a decade ago while still a college student. He has since written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other publications about the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



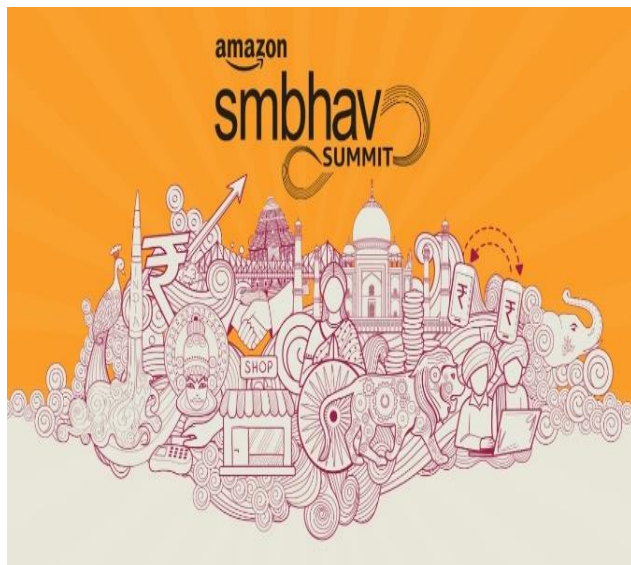
Anjali Pandey Bags The CII EXCON Committed Leader Award :-



Ajay Piramal Receives Order Of The British Empire Award :-

Queen Elizabeth II bestowed an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) award on Ajay Piramal, Chairman of the Piramal Group. He was recognised for his contributions to the UK-India trade relationship as the Indian Co-Chair of the UK-India CEO Forum. Piramal had contributed to the 2019 Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting in London, the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and the UK Prime Minister's visit to India in 2016. "Piramal has also helped shape policy on labour mobility, setting up a fast-track mechanism for Indian investments in the UK, and the on corporate tax in India,"

Cummins India's Engines and Components Business Unit Leader, Anjali Pandey, received the Committed Leader Award at the CII EXCON 2022 in Bengaluru for her efforts to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace. Anjali Pandey, who received the CII's Committed Leader Award, stated, "Diversity and inclusion is not just the right thing to do; it is the right way of running the business by fully capitalizing on the value that diversity can bring. I believe that it is critical to our ability to innovate and win in the market". Over the last two decades, the company has taken active measures to increase female representation, resulting in an increase in gender diversity ratio from 5% to 32%.



Innovator Subhash Ola Won Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022 :-

An innovator from Rajasthan who developed the technology of saving energy in boilers by recycling steam, Shri Subhash Ola, has won the Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022, and his company "Geniusenergy Critical Innovation Private Limited" has won the Start-up of the Year award. The technology was initially developed to produce khoya and other milk products, but its portfolio of applications was later expanded to include textiles, milk and food, pharma,

plywood, paper mills, leather industry, chemical industry, hot water boiler generator, plastic recycle, laundry, hospitals, and so on. Geniusenergy Critical Innovation, a government-recognized start-up, was incubated by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), an autonomous body of the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology (DST).



WHO DG's Global Health Leaders Awards: India's ASHA Workers Among 6 Winners :-

The one million ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers at the forefront of healthcare delivery in India have received the Global Health Leaders Award-2022 in the context of the 75th World Health Assembly, which is currently underway. "ASHA (which means hope in Hindi) are more than 1 million female volunteers in India, honoured for the crucial role in linking the community with the health system, to ensure those living in rural poverty can access primary healthcare services, as shown throughout the Covid-19 pandemic," according to a World Health Organization release (WHO). They were one of six recipients to receive the award. The award also recognised the Dr Paul Farmer for his contribution towards providing direct healthcare services, research and advocacy for those who are sick and living in poverty.

5: Banking



Suryoday Small Finance Bank Tie-Up With Kyndryl For Digital & IT Transformation :-

As part of a five-year transformation agreement, Suryoday Small Finance Bank will collaborate with Kyndryl to drive its technology transformation programme, improve operational efficiency, and increase digital banking adoption among its customers. Kyndryl will advise and implement a new core banking system for the bank, as well as integrate it with digital channels, to deliver an agile banking platform that accelerates retail business growth and improves the customer experience. Kyndryl will oversee the bank's critical core and mobile banking application ecosystems, as well as provide deep expertise in hybrid cloud services, data analytics, and IP-based transformation services frameworks to support the bank's digital transformation journey.



SBI Cards Tie-Up With TCS To Boost Digital Transformation :-

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced the expansion of its decade-long collaboration with SBI Cards and Payments Services to power the latter's next phase of digital transformation. TCS's future-ready, agile

platform, which it developed in the run-up to the company's IPO in 2020, personalised customer experiences and helped boost sales and retention. TCS assisted the company in transforming its core card sourcing platform and digitising a large portion of the process. With this partnership expansion, it will further digitalize the online onboarding processes, allowing for a faster turnaround and frictionless experience with higher customer satisfaction. Furthermore, it will allow SBI Card to expand its e-card issuance.



Airtel Payments Bank Tie-Up With IndusInd Bank To Offer FD Facility :-

Airtel Payments Bank has launched a fixed deposit facility in collaboration with IndusInd Bank, offering interest rates of 6.5 percent and higher, as well as the option of early withdrawal without penalty. With the introduction of the fixed deposits (FD) facility, Airtel Payments Bank has expanded its digital banking portfolio, according to a press release from IndusInd Bank. Customers can deposit any amount ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 1,90,000 via the Airtel Thanks app and earn interest of up to 6.5 percent per annum, with senior citizens receiving an additional 0.5 percent on all fixed deposits. "Customers can dissolve an FD before the maturity date through the Airtel Thanks app, and no penalty or processing fee will be charged on premature withdrawals. The invested amount will be credited back to linked account within minutes," said the release.



Pencilton Introduces Contactless RuPay Card In The Form Of Keychain :-

Pencilton, a teen-focused fintech company, has launched PencilKey, NCMC-compliant RuPay on-the-go contactless keychains for teens, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Transcorp. Pencilton has taken an important step toward promoting financial literacy in youngsters by providing them with financial tools and technology. Transcorp PPI is the fastest & resilient issuer for co-branded instruments and has demonstrated success for its partners to achieve their desired goals by aligning stakeholder deliverables. Users can activate and manage their PencilKey through the Pencilton app which is also used to load money, check spends, block/unblock the account, set limits, and so on. PencilKey includes the benefits of NCMC, which is currently used on the Delhi Airport Metro line and Goa's buses.



Bank Of Baroda Launched A New Feature 'Bob World Gold' For Senior Citizens :-

One of India's leading public sector bank Bank of Baroda, has introduced bob World Gold, a new feature on its bob World mobile banking platform designed specifically for seniors and the elderly. bob World Gold is a one-of-a-kind digital banking platform designed specifically for this demographic, offering its senior customers a simple, smooth, and secure mobile banking experience. bob World Gold has simple navigation, large fonts, adequate spacing, and clear menus, as well as additional features such as a ready-to-assist voice-based search service. Furthermore, while bob World offers over 250 services, bob World Gold brings the most important, frequently used services and favourite transactions of senior citizens to the front of the screen, where they are conveniently available and easily accessible.



ICICI Bank launched India's 'open-for-all' digital ecosystem for MSMEs :-

ICICI Bank announced the launch of a digital service for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that other banks' customers can also use. The "digital ecosystem" provides improved banking services, banking services to MSMEs who are customers of other banks, and a variety of value-added services for everyone. "We at ICICI Bank always believe that the MSME segment forms the backbone of the Indian economy. It has been our philosophy to enhance 'ease of doing business' for MSMEs and become partners in their growth," said Anup Bagchi, Executive Director, ICICI Bank. According to a bank statement, anyone can benefit from digital

solutions by downloading the new version of the InstaBIZ app.



RBI Changes The Rules For Banks Participating In KCC's Short-Term Agricultural Loan Plan :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has changed the rules for banks to claim the amount of interest subvention provided to farmers under the short-term crop loan scheme via Kisan Credit Card (KCC) during the previous fiscal year. Pending claims for the fiscal year 2021-22 can be submitted by June 30, 2023, and must be duly certified by statutory auditors "as true and correct," according to a circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The government provides a 2% annual interest subsidy to banks in order for them to provide short-term crop loans of up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers at a 7% annual interest rate. Farmers who pay their loans on time receive an additional 3% interest subsidy. For such farmers, the effective interest rate is 4 per cent.



Union Bank Becomes First Public Sector Bank To Go Live On Account Aggregator Framework :-

Union Bank of India said in a statement that it has become the first public sector bank to go live on the

Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem. The AA framework, dubbed the UPI moment for lending, ensures quick data sharing with the user's consent and eliminates the need for physical documents. Since its launch in September 2021, it has linked 332,000 customer accounts and fulfilled over 310,000 consent requests. The framework makes it easier for regulated entities to share financial information in real time. The Reserve Bank of India has licenced AAs to allow data to flow between Financial Information Providers (FIPs) and Financial Information Users (FIUs) (FIUs).



Indian Bank has launched a pre-approved personal loan Under Project WAVE :-

Under Project World of Advanced Virtual Experience (WAVE), Indian Bank has launched a pre-approved personal loan (PAPL) product that will only be available through digital channels. The PAPL loan is available through the 'IndOASIS' mobile app, the bank's website, and internet banking. At the moment, the loan has a ten percent annual interest rate with no foreclosure charges. Started in January 2022, Indian Bank's digital transformation initiative under Project 'WAVE' has resulted in the launch of its first digital product PAPL, which aims to provide its customers with instant loan disbursement through a three-step process. It is currently available to existing bank customers aged 21 and up who have regular income and pension accounts.



Canara Bank Tied-Up With ASAP To Launch Skill Loans :-

In collaboration with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) Canara Bank has introduced 'skill loans' . Students pursuing skill training programmes offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognized agency that conducts National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) or National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) courses can apply for loans ranging from 5,000 to 1.5 lakh. Higher Education Minister R. Bindu formally launched the loan in the presence of Canara Bank general manager and State Level Bankers' Committee convener S. Premkumar. The loan will be provided without collateral and will have a repayment period of three to seven years, according to an official release. Students can also avail themselves of moratorium on repayment for the duration of the course and for an additional six months.



HDFC Bank Launches 'Xpress Car Loan' Industry First Digital New Car Loan :-

HDFC Bank has launched 'Xpress Car Loans,' an end-to-end digital new car loan journey for both existing and new customers. The bank has integrated its lending application with car dealerships across the country. In a press release, the bank stated, "This industry first facility is expected to revolutionise the way car financing is done in the country," For car buyers, HDFC Bank has created a comprehensive, faster, more convenient, and all-inclusive digital journey. According to the company, this will help to simplify the car-buying process and drive car sales across the country, including in semi-urban and rural areas.



InspiHER: Financial Literacy Campaign Launched By Bharti AXA Life Insurance :-

A joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, Bharti AXA Life Insurance, has announced the launch of its financial literacy campaign 'InspiHER- enabling an empowered future' – a special initiative to raise financial awareness among women and empower them to make informed financial decisions for a secure future. According to research, 55% of women do not make informed financial decisions, and 59% of women do not have health or life insurance. The company hopes to raise awareness about a financially secure future for women by engaging with women,

particularly mothers, their families, and close to 1 million citizens of the country on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



Union Bank Of India Launches Online Platform 'Trade Nxt' :-

Union Bank of India (UBI) has launched 'Trade next,' a digital solution that allows corporates and MSMEs to transact all cross-border export-import transactions. According to the public sector bank, the online platform allows for the seamless entry and processing of letters of credit (LC), bank guarantees, export and import bills, disbursement of export credit, outward and inward remittances, dealer financing, and much more. "It offers an array of services in one place, which eliminates the need for companies to visit a bank branch to initiate a trade transaction and ensures better governance with enhanced security and controls," the Bank explained.



RBI Imposed Rs 59 Lakh Penalty On KEB Hana Bank :-

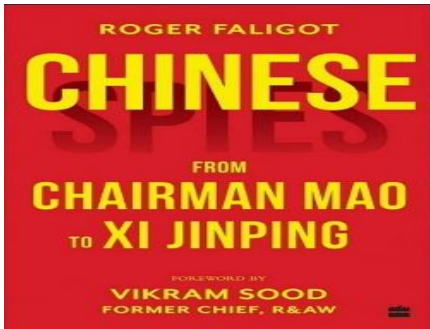
The RBI announced that it has fined KEB Hana Bank Rs 59 lakh for failing to comply with certain 'interest rate on deposits' norms. The Korean bank has been penalised for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on "Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016". The statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of KEB Hana Bank was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2020. RBI, however, said the penalty is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.



PNB MetLife Launched India's 1st Dental Health Insurance Plan :-

PNB MetLife India Insurance Co, a private insurer, has introduced a dental health insurance plan. According to the company, this is the first insurance plan in India that covers fixed-benefit outpatient expenses and provides financial assistance with costs related to overall dental health. This launch reinforces PNB MetLife's industry leadership with this one-of-a-kind, standalone dental health insurance plan that covers major dental procedures without the hassles of hospitalisation, according to the company. PNB MetLife's new Dental Care Plan will help customers manage their dental health, and the company has partnered with more than 340 dental clinics to provide convenience to its customers.

6: Books and Author



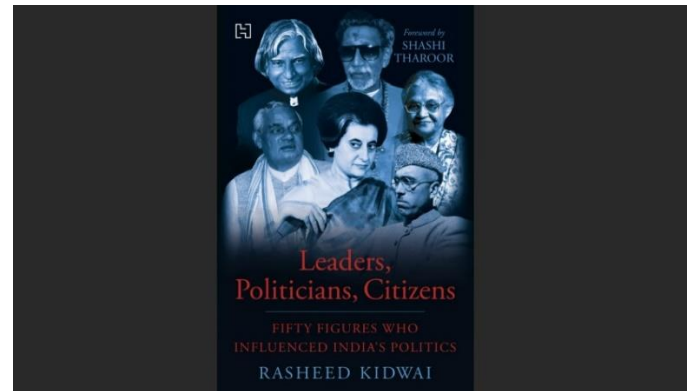
A Book Titled 'Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao To Xi Jinping' Authored By Roger Faligot :-

HarperCollins India has released a new book titled "Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping" written by French journalist Roger Faligot and translated by Natasha Lehrer, a writer, editor, and translator. The book's foreword is written by Vikram Sood, the former head of India's foreign intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). Natasha Lehrer translated the book 'Chinese Spies,' which was first published in French in 2008 and later translated into English from the updated 4th edition. Roger Faligot's astonishing account, based on previously unseen papers and interviews with countless insiders, reveals nothing less than a century of world events shaped by Chinese spies. They have been everywhere, from Stalin's purges to 9/11, as scientists, journalists, diplomats, foreign students, and businessmen.



Devendra Fadnavis Releases The Book On Amit Shah "Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal" :-

Devendra Fadnavis, a Maharashtra BJP leader, has released a Marathi book about Union Home Minister Amit Shah's political journey. Fadnavis praised Shah (57), a former BJP president, for his sharp political acumen and deep understanding of elections after unveiling the book at a function. According to the former CM the book, titled 'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal,' documents Shah's life and journey, as well as his contribution to building the BJP and making it the world's largest political organisation. Dr Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi originally wrote the book, which Dr Jyostna Kolhatkar translated into Marathi. "He comes with great capacity to personally travel to places, study and take decisions based on his experiences," Fadnavis said.



Rasheed Kidwai authored a book titled "Leaders, Politicians, Citizens" :-

Rasheed Kidwai's book "Leaders, Politicians, Citizens: Fifty Figures Who Influenced India's Politics" collects the stories of 50 people who influenced India's political landscape. Hachette India is the publisher of the book. Shashi Tharoor, a Member of Parliament, wrote the

book's foreword (Lok Sabha). Teji Bachchan, Phoolan Devi, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Jayalalithaa, APJ Abdul Kalam, and Karunanidhi are among the 50 people featured in the book.



A Book 'INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences Of Air Warriors' Released By Rajnath Singh :-

At the 37th Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial Lecture, organised by the Air Force Association in New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released a book titled 'INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors.' Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan edited the book. The book contains 50 Swarnim articles written by veterans who detail their experiences. Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal (PC Lal) was also honoured by the Defence Minister. Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal (PC Lal) was the Vice Chief of Air Staff during the 1965 war and the 7th Chief of Air Staff during the 1971 war.



NITI Aayog's AIM Has Released The AIM-PRIME Playbook To Assist Academics :-

The Dr. Ambedkar International Center in New Delhi hosted the launch of the AIM-PRIME Playbook. The AIM-PRIME programme, a national project of the NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission, is being carried out by Venture Center, Pune, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor. Following the launch, the dignitaries attended a startup display and met with selected cohort start-ups and incubators. The AIM PRIME (Program for Researchers in Innovation, Market Readiness and Entrepreneurship) programme used a blended learning curriculum to promote early-stage science-based, deep technology ideas to market over a 12-month period.



A Book Titled "The Struggle For Police Reforms In India" By Ex-IPS Prakash Singh :-

In New Delhi, India's Vice President (VP), M Venkaiah Naidu, released a book titled "The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police" written by a former IPS officer, Prakash Singh. Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd is the publisher of the book. The book traces the evolution of the Indian Police from its inception during British rule to its current state since independence. The Vice President stated that the Centre and States must work together in a Team India spirit to bring about police reforms. He was pleased with a number of initiatives taken by the government to improve policing. He also called for a renewed focus on reforming police forces.



VP Venkaiah Naidu releases 'Modi @20: Dreams Meeting Delivery' book :-

In New Delhi, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released the book "Modi@20 Dreams Meet Delivery." The book explores various aspects of Narendrabhai Modi's distinct thought process, pioneering, proactive approach, and quintessential, transformational leadership style. 'Modi@20' is an anthology edited and compiled by BlueKraft Digital Foundation and published by Rupa Publications. It is a compilation of chapters authored by eminent intellectuals and domain experts. This book, a collection of chapters written by eminent intellectuals and domain experts, aims to provide a definitive and comprehensive examination of the fundamental transformation of Gujarat and India over the last two decades as a result of Modi's unique governance model.



Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Book On Indian Knowledge Systems For Engineering Students :-

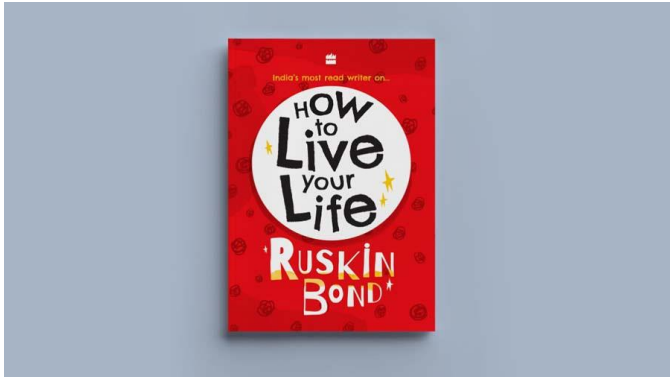
Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister, unveiled a textbook titled "Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems: Concepts and Applications." The book is intended primarily for engineering students, but it will also address requirements in other University systems (Liberal Arts, Medicine, Science and Management). The textbook curriculum is developed by Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore in association with VYASA Yoga Institute, Bengaluru, and Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Ernakulam. The book is authored by Prof. B Mahadevan, IIM Bangalore and co-authored by Associate Prof. Vinayak Rajat Bhat, Chanakya University, Bengaluru, and Nagendra Pavana R N, with the school of Vedic Knowledge Systems at Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Ernakulam.



A book on the life and struggles of B.V.Chandraprasad Thyagi, one of the founders of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti released :-

Thyagi, a book about the life and struggles of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti founder B.V.Chandraprasad Thyagi, was published in Hassan. Senior DSS officials, writers, intellectuals, politicians, and hundreds of people associated with Thyagi's activism attended the event. Thyagi, who worked at Visvesaraya Iron and Steel Limited in Bhadravati in the 1970s, began his struggle by fighting against workplace untouchability. The VISL canteen had a separate system for serving tea to Scheduled Caste employees. He chastised the practise, provoking the wrath of his coworkers from the "upper castes." Later, he

became a friend of B. Krishnappa, who founded the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti while teaching at a college in Bhadravati.



**A New Book Titled “How to Live Your Life”
Authored By Ruskin Bond :-**

Ruskin Bond, a renowned author, has released a new book titled 'How to Live Your Life.' This book was released on the author's 88th birthday by HarperCollins India. Bond encourages readers to discover their strengths in an affectionate and encouraging tone. He believes that with "effort and commitment," this talent can be honed and used to help others. Because the author recognises that adults – parents, guardians, and teachers – have a tendency to impose their own ambitions on children, he advises readers to pursue only what they are passionate about. He claims that a constant state of happiness is undesirable because it can lead to people becoming overly self-absorbed. They can stop caring about other people's pain. In fact, they might lose all motivation if there are no challenges to face and solutions to look for.

7: Defence



NATO Exercises’ Defender Europe 2022 & Swift Response 2022 Began :-

NATO's Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022 exercises began on May 9 in nine European countries. According to reports, this was announced by Poland's Minister of National Defense, Mariusz Blaszczak. “International exercises Defender Europe and Swift Response 2022 with the participation of Polish soldiers begin. More than 7,000 troops from NATO and Partner countries and 3,000 units of equipment will take part in

the planned joint exercises in Poland” Blaszczak said. Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022, according to the Polish Ministry of National Defense, will take place in nine countries from May 1 to May 27. They will be attended by 18,000 servicemen from over 20 countries.



INS Vikrant, India’s First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, Will Be Handed Over To The Indian Navy :-

The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) will deliver India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) to the Indian Navy next month, naming it 'INS Vikrant.' CSL Director (Technical) Bejoy Bhasker revealed this at a press conference in Kochi to mark the Shipyard's 50th anniversary. IAC will be out for the final sea trial in the coming weeks, according to Bejoy. "The final sea trial was scheduled for this month but faced a slight delay. We will hand over the IAC to Indian Navy next month after which the ship will take the name of INS Vikrant. India's first aircraft carrier will be commissioned on Independence Day in August this year," He stated.



Air India Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL) and Boeing may Collaborate Soon :-

Air India Engineering Services Ltd (AIESL), which is set to be privatised, and Boeing may collaborate to maintain the two VVIP Boeing 777s used by the president, vice president, and prime minister for medium and long-haul international flights. The American aerospace company stated that it is looking into "opportunities with AIESL for the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of critical equipment on key Boeing defence platforms in India, including the P-8I operated by the Indian Navy and the 777 VIP aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force." The news was announced at the Boeing India Aatmanirbharta in Defence conference in New Delhi. AIESL CEO Sharad Agrawal said: "Such collaboration would drive forward our vision for strengthening MRO capabilities in India, for India. We remain excited and committed as we provide critical support to India's armed forces as part of the Boeing India Repair Development and Sustainment (BIRDS) hub initiative."



Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor Takes Charge As DG (Inspection And Safety) :-

Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor has been appointed as the Indian Air Force's new Director General (Inspection and Safety). Kapoor, a National Defence Academy graduate, resumed his office at Air HQ New Delhi on May 1. In December 1985, he was commissioned as a Transport Pilot in the IAF's Flying branch. He attended Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) Wellington, the College of Defence Management, and the National Defence College. The Air Officer is a Qualified Flying Instructor with over 7700 hours of flying experience on various IAF aircraft. The Air Officer was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal and the Ati Vishist Seva Medal.



China says it conducted exercises near Taiwan :-

According to reports, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) recently held a large-scale joint exercise and surrounded the island of Taiwan from both sides, sending a strong warning to "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces and external interference forces amid growing tension between Taiwan and China. According to media reports, the PLA exercise, which included powerful aircraft and warplanes, was a partial rehearsal for a possible 'reunification-by-force operation,' which included neutralising the military potential of forces on the island and cutting off possible military intervention from countries such as the United States and Japan. This comes just three days after 18 Chinese military planes raided Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ).



Indian Navy Plans To Purchase The GISAT-2 Satellite To Increase Its Capacity :-

In this fiscal year, the Indian Navy hopes to acquire a dedicated earth imaging satellite — Geo Imaging Satellite-2 (GISAT 2) or EOS-05 — as part of its modernization and network-centric warfare and communications programme. Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F12 will carry out the launch. The second satellite in this series, the GISAT 2, will be designed to provide near real-time images of large areas of interest at frequent intervals, assisting the navy not only in surveillance but also in operations planning. The satellite is expected to improve the navy's operational

capabilities in the Indian Ocean region, which is strategically and geopolitically significant, particularly in light of China's growing presence.



ICG Commissions The 845th Air Squadron Equipped With Dhruv ALH Mk III Helicopters :-

The Coast Guard commissioned its second Air Squadron, 845 Squadron, at the Coast Guard Air Enclave in Nedumbassery, Kochi. The Coast Guard Director General V S Pathania commissioned the new Air Squadron, which is outfitted with Advanced Mark III (ALH Mark III) helicopters manufactured in-house. The commissioning marks a significant advancement in terms of self-reliance in search and rescue missions as well as long-range maritime surveillance. Four helicopters are stationed in Kochi to cover the coasts of Karnataka, Kerala, and Lakshadweep. Kunal Naik commands a squadron of nine officers and 35 soldiers. The HAL Dhruv utility helicopter was designed and built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The development of HAL Dhruv was revealed in November 1984.



India successfully test-fires extended-range version of BrahMos missile :-

For the first time, India successfully tested the Extended Range (ER) version of the BrahMos air-launched missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The Indian Air Force confirmed the success, saying, "The launch from the aircraft was as planned and the missile achieved a direct hit on the designated target in the Bay of Bengal region." The IAF's strategic reach is enhanced by the missile's extended range capability and the high performance of the Su-30MKI aircraft, according to the IAF. The dedicated and collaborative efforts of the IAF, Indian Navy, DRDO, BAPL, and HAL have demonstrated the nation's capability to accomplish this feat.



Indian Navy successfully test-fires naval anti-ship missile :-

The Indian Navy successfully fired the first indigenously developed naval anti-ship missile from a Seaking helicopter according to officials. The test was carried out at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha. "This firing is a significant step towards achieving self-reliance in niche missile technology and reaffirms the Indian Navy's commitment to indigenisation," a senior Navy official said. The test was conducted by the Indian Navy in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The new missile was successfully tested more than a month after the Indian Navy and the Andaman and Nicobar Command

successfully tested an anti-ship version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.



Top officers of Army, Navy, Air Force meet to review preparedness in East :-

According to a defence spokesperson, top officers from the Air Force, Navy, and Army met in Shillong to review operational issues and improve interoperability among the forces in the eastern region. The three-day Tri-Services Eastern Commanders-in-Chief Conference concluded on May 19 at the Eastern Air Command headquarters. "The commanders exchanged notes on the peculiarities of operations in their respective domains, identify each other's strengths and arrive at mutually agreeable solutions to enhance interoperability and synergy between the three services," according to the spokesperson. The meeting was attended by Lt Gen Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, Vice Admiral B Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command, and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command, Lt Gen RP Kalita.



Rajnath Singh Launches India-Made Warships, INS Surat And INS Udaygiri :-

At Mumbai's Mazagon Docks Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched two made-in-India warships, the 'Surat' and the 'Udaygiri'. The two indigenously built warships were launched together for the first time, according to Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL). Surat is the P15B class's fourth guided missile destroyer, while Udaygiri is the P17A class's second stealth frigate. The Directorate of Naval Design (DND) designed both warships in-house, and they were built at MDL in Mumbai. In his speech, Rajnath Singh described the warships as an embodiment of the government's unwavering commitment to improving the country's maritime capability.



4th Edition Of India-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) :-

In the Northern Bay of Bengal, the fourth edition of the Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) began. Units of the Indian Navy and the Bangladesh Navy are patrolling the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) together. The final INBN

CORPAT was held in October 2020. Kora, a guided-missile corvette, and Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel, both built in India, took part in the exercise, as did Bangladesh Navy ships BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Ubaidah. Furthermore, both navies' maritime patrol aircraft took part in the coordinated patrol. According to a press release, the conduct of CORPATs has strengthened mutual understanding and enhanced interoperability between both navies in countering transnational maritime threats.



India Launched WARDEC AI-Powered Wargame Centre :-

To establish a "Wargame Research and Development Centre" in New Delhi the Army Training Command has signed an agreement with Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU). The project, dubbed 'WARDEC' as a prototype, will be India's first simulation-based training centre, employing artificial intelligence (AI) to create virtual reality wargames. The Army will use the Wargame Research and Development Centre to train soldiers and test their strategies through "metaverse-enabled gameplay." The wargame models will be created to train for wars as well as counter-terror and counter-insurgency operations.

8: Economy



Reliance Industries Becomes First Indian Company To Hit Rs 19 Lakh M-Cap :-

Reliance Industries (RIL) became the first Indian company to reach a market capitalization (m-cap) of Rs 19 lakh crore, adding another feather to its cap. Despite broader market weakness, the largest domestic company rose 2% to Rs 2,827.10 per share, a new all-time high. The stock had closed at Rs 2,775.70. The oil-to-telecom behemoth's market capitalization peaked at Rs 19,03,658.88 crore, with a free-float marketcap of Rs 9,70,866.03 crore. Mukesh Ambani's company had a market capitalization of Rs 18 lakh crore in March 2022 and Rs 17 lakh crore on October 13, 2021. So far this year, the stock has risen by more than 19%.



World Bank approved \$47 million project for India's Mission Karmayogi program :-

According to a statement from the World Bank, a \$47 million project to support the Government of India's Mission Karmayogi, a national programme to build civil service capacity, has been approved. In India, nearly 18 million civil servants are employed, with roughly two-thirds working for state governments and local governments. "While India has steadily improved its performance over the past decade, through the implementation of Mission Karmayogi the Government aims to make the country's civil service force more future-ready and capable of meeting twenty-first-century challenges," the statement said. The Bank's funding will help the government achieve its goal of improving the functional and behavioural competencies of approximately four million civil servants.



Air Asia To Merge By Tata Group With Air India :-

Tata Sons has taken the first step in a bid toward unifying its aviation operations by merging Air India and Air Asia. Air India, which was recently acquired by the Tata group, has applied to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for acquiring a 100% stake in Air Asia India. According to a notice filed with the CCI, "The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of the entire equity share capital of AirAsia India by Air India – an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons (TSPL). At present, TSPL holds 83.67 per cent of the equity share

capital of Air Asia India.” Tata recently increased its stake in AirAsia India to 83.67% in December 2020.



Qualcomm India Has Teamed Up With MeitY's C-DAC To Assist Indian Chipset Startups :-

Qualcomm India will collaborate with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) with a goal to empower homegrown semiconductor startups, according to a statement. As part of the government and industry's ongoing efforts to encourage innovation in the semiconductor space in India, the collaboration will support a group of promising semiconductor design startups. "There is a huge opportunity for Indian semiconductor startups due to the incentives provided by the Government," said Rajen Vagadia, VP and President of Qualcomm India & SAARC, in a statement. C-DAC and Qualcomm India intend to work together to foster the technical advancements, intellectual-property-driven innovation, and product development required for semiconductor design in the Indian ecosystem.



India Has The World's Biggest Amount Of Real-Time Transactions, Totaling 48 Billion :-

According to ACI Worldwide, India accounted for 48 billion worldwide real-time transactions in 2021, nearly three times that of nearest challenger China (18 billion), and 6.5 times that of the US, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany combined. In India, growing merchant acceptance of UPI-based mobile payment apps and QR code payments, combined with increased use of digital payments during the Covid-19 pandemic, helped real-time payments secure 31.3 percent of total payments transaction volume in 2021. With consumers abandoning traditional payment cards in favour of mobile-based real-time payments, the country's real-time payments share of total global payments volume is expected to exceed 70% by 2026.



Under Airtel Startup Accelerator Program, Bharti Airtel Purchase 7% Equity In Cnergee Technologies :-

Under the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program, telecom operator Bharti Airtel has acquired a 7.5% stake in cloud-based networking solutions provider Cnergee Technologies. Airtel said in a statement that the stake acquisition will allow it to sharpen its NaaS proposition for Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) looking to accelerate their shift to cloud-based applications. Cnergee, based in Navi Mumbai, specialises in cloud-

based integrated networking solutions for businesses of all sizes. Airtel purchased the stake at a mutually agreed-upon pre-money enterprise valuation, but did not disclose the valuation for confidentiality reasons. Cnergee has created a set of 5G ready software tools for Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) that can be deployed at scale to enable zero-touch service provisioning, central remote monitoring, and management of all connected devices with a variety of real-time analytics.



GST Revenue Of April 2022: All-Time High Rs 1.68 Lakh Crores :-

Despite the escalating geopolitical conflict in Russia and Ukraine, India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues crossed the Rs 1.5 lakh crore market for the first time in April, reaching a new high of Rs 1.67 lakh crore on the back of increased compliance, better tax administration, and improved economic activity. April's GST collections are nearly 18% higher than the government's previous record of Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March, and 20% higher than the previous year's figure of Rs 1.39 lakh crore. The finance ministry said in a statement "It is a result of various measures taken by the tax administration to nudge taxpayers to file timely returns and make compliance easier, and smoother and strict enforcement action taken against errant taxpayers identified based on data analytics and artificial intelligence".



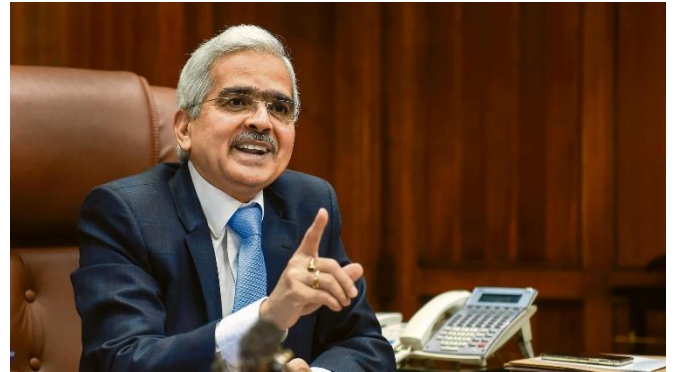
RBI: India Among Worst-Hit In Pandemic, Economy Will Recover In 13 Years :-

In its most recent report, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that India was one of the worst-affected nations during the Covid-19 pandemic and that it will take up to 13 years for India to fully recover from the scars of the Covid-19 pandemic. India suffered among the world's greatest pandemic-induced losses in terms of output, lives, and livelihoods, which could take years to recover from. Even after two years, economic activity has barely recovered to pre-COVID levels, according to the 'Revive & Construct' report on Currency and Finance 2021-22. According to the RBI report, the pandemic is a watershed moment, and the ongoing structural changes triggered by the pandemic have the potential to alter the growth trajectory in the medium term.



IRDAI Authorise Insurance Companies For Investment Of 25% To 30% Of Assets In BFSI Sector :-

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has increased the investment limit for insurance companies in the financial sector from 25% to 30%, freeing up more funds for investments in stocks and bonds in the sector. Sampath Reddy, CIO of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance said "The increase in this limit to 30% will provide the much needed leeway for the Insurance companies to increase their exposure to the sector and bring it closer to the broader market levels. Additionally, they would also be in position to hold a much wider basket of diverse stocks within the sector and participate in the promising Indian growth story through the same" .



RBI Monetary Policy: RBI Hikes Repo Rate By 40 Bps To 4.40 Percent :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the Repo rate, the main policy rate, by 40 basis points to 4.40 percent and the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.50 percent, putting an end to the low interest rate regime and mitigating the impact of geopolitical tensions. The central bank, however, maintained its accommodative monetary policy in an unscheduled meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee. The unexpected move by the RBI — the first since August 2018 — is expected to raise interest rates in the banking system. EMIs (equated monthly instalments) on home, vehicle, and other personal and corporate loans are likely to rise. Deposit rates, mainly fixed term rates, are also set to rise.



India Gets Its 100th Unicorn Startup As Neobank Open :-

Open, a neobanking fintech portal, became India's 100th unicorn after raising new capital to increase its value to more than a billion dollars. The Bengaluru-based neobank, which has been in operation for five years, raised \$50 million in a Series D funding round led by IIFL, Singaporean state holding company Temasek, American investment firm Tiger Global, and another Indian firm 3one4 Capital. This contributed to its valuation exceeding \$1 billion. This funding reflects the fervour in India's startup ecosystem, which is the world's third-largest, according to the Economic Survey, 2021-22. According to the survey, India surpassed the United Kingdom to take the top spot, following the United States and China, which added 487 and 301 unicorns, respectively.



Adani Wilmar Became India's Largest FMCG Company Surpassing HUL :-

By surpassing Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) Adani Wilmar Ltd (AWL) has become India's largest FMCG company. This was made public following the release of Adani Wilmar's Q4FY22 results. In FY2021-22, Adani Wilmar reported operational revenue of 54,214 crore, while HUL reported annual revenue of 51,468 crore. Adani Wilmar CEO and MD Angshu Mallick stated following the presentation of Q4 results, "Despite the adverse macro climate, we have delivered consistent growth." The food and fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) segment is growing at a double-digit rate. We have maintained a healthy market share in the edible oil and food categories. Additionally, we are on schedule to execute our go-to-market strategy, which is geared toward capturing the rural growth story."

will provide full support. We will hold discussions in Delhi to sort out various issues including getting the RBI license, he added.



Dineout, A Restaurant Reservation Platform Launched By Swiggy :-

App for online food delivery Swiggy has reached an agreement with Times Internet to acquire restaurant technology and dining out platform Dineout. Swiggy said in a statement that Dineout will continue to operate as an independent app following the acquisition. "The acquisition will allow Swiggy to explore synergies and offer new experiences in a high-use category," said Sriharsha Majety, cofounder and chief executive officer of Swiggy. Swiggy is expected to double down on Dineout's offerings, including table reservations and events while Dineout's restaurant partners will get access to Swiggy's large customer base, allowing them to increase their reach. The largely all-stock deal is worth about \$120 million, or about Rs 930 crore, and is expected to close over the course of the next month.



Union Minister launches new schemes of Repco Bank :-

Ajay Kumar Mishra, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, has assured that steps will be taken to obtain an RBI licence for the Repco Bank. The "Repco Subiksham" scheme introduces a new deposit scheme for senior citizens. It is a retail deposit scheme for senior citizens (those over the age of 60) and super senior citizens (age above 80). "The senior citizen interest rate is 7.15 percent, and the super senior citizen interest rate is 7.25 percent." Addressing a crowd in Chennai on the occasion of the launch of four schemes, including a deposit scheme for senior citizens and a new repatriate welfare scheme, he stated that Repco bank is and will remain powerful, for which the Centre and the Home Ministry



Adani Group To Buy Ambuja Cements, ACC For \$10.5 Bn :-

The Adani Group has entered into definitive agreements to acquire Swiss cement major Holcim's stake in Ambuja Cements and its subsidiary ACC for \$10.5 billion, including open offers. According to reports, the Adani Group may spend \$3-3.5 billion to acquire the shares of public shareholders. According to a stock exchange filing, the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate has offered Rs 385 per share for Ambuja Cements and Rs 2,300 for ACC. Holcim held 63.19 percent stake in Ambuja Cements and 54.53 percent in ACC. Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group said that the company's move into cement business was another validation of their belief in nation's growth.



WPI Inflation At A Record High Of 15.08% In April 2022 :-

In April, wholesale price-based inflation reached a new high of 15.08 percent due to rising prices in a variety of sectors, including food and commodities. In March, WPI-based inflation was 14.55 percent, up from 10.74 percent in April of last year. "The high rate of inflation in April 2022 was primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles, non-food articles, food products and chemicals & chemical products etc. as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement. The WPI inflation has remained in double digit for the 13th consecutive month since April last year. Inflation in food articles was 8.35 per cent, as prices of vegetables, wheat, fruits and potato witnessed sharp spike over the year-ago period.



RBI: Public Sector Banks' Frauds Down 51% To Rs 40,295 Crore In FY22 :-

The Reserve Bank of India said that Public sector banks has reported a more than 51% decrease in the amount involved in frauds to Rs 40,295.25 crore during the fiscal year ended March 2022. The Reserve Bank stated in response to a Right to Information (RTI) Act request that the 12 PSBs (Public Sector Banks) reported frauds totaling Rs 81,921.54 crore in the preceding fiscal 2020-21. However, the number of fraud cases did not decrease at the same rate, with 7,940 frauds reported by PSBs in 2021-22, compared to 9,933 incidents reported in FY21, according to the RBI's response to Madhya Pradesh-based RTI activist Chandrashekhar Gaur.



IDBI Bank To Sell Quarter Of Its Stock In Ageas Federal Life Insurance :-

IDBI Bank has entered into a share purchase agreement with Ageas Insurance International, wherein the bank is looking to sell its remaining stake of 25 per cent in private sector life insurer Ageas Federal Life Insurance for Rs 580 crore, making Ageas one of the few foreign insurers to raise its stake in its Indian insurance joint venture to 74 per cent, after the government raised the FDI cap in the insurance sector. The transaction is expected to close in Q2FY23, subject to regulatory approvals and satisfaction of the share purchase agreement's terms and conditions. Ageas, a European insurer, had previously increased its stake in the Indian insurer to 49 percent, up from 26 percent in December 2020.

operators to sell excavated ore through direct sale as against through e-auctions only, what could be a win-win for merchant miners and steel companies.



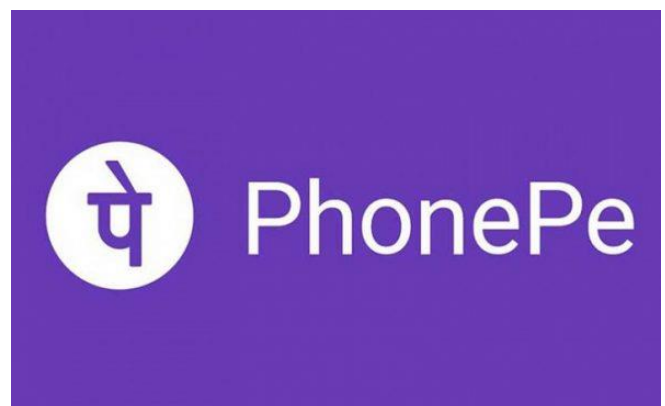
India Receives Highest-Ever FDI Inflow Of \$83.57 Bn In FY22 :-

According to the central government, India received the highest annual FDI inflow of \$83.57 billion during FY22. "In 2014-2015, FDI inflow in India stood at mere \$45.15 billion as compared to the highest ever annual FDI inflow of \$83.57 billion reported during the financial year 2021-22 overtaking last year's FDI by \$1.60 billion despite military operation in Ukraine and COVID-19 pandemic," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in an official statement. Since FY03-04, when inflows were at \$4.3 billion, India's FDI inflows have increased 20-fold. According to the ministry, India is quickly emerging as a preferred country for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector.



SC Allows Companies To Export Iron Ore In Karnataka Mining Case :-

Allowing miners to sell ore through direct sale the Supreme Court has lifted the ban on iron ore export from mines in Karnataka's Ballari, Chitradurga, and Tumakuru districts. A bench of Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, Justice Krishna Murari, and Justice Hima Kohli issued an order on a batch of mining firm applications, instructing them to follow the Government of India's rules on iron ore exports. In 2011, the Supreme Court banned iron ore mining in Karnataka, citing environmental degradation and the need to preserve the mineral resource for future generations. It had also prohibited exports. But latest order lifted the curbs on exports and allowed iron ore



Phonepe To Buy Wealth Management Platforms Wealthdesk :-

In order to expand its financial and wealth management services, Walmart-owned digital payments firm PhonePe is set to acquire wealth management firms WealthDesk and OpenQ for approximately \$50 million and \$20 million, respectively. PhonePe applied to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) earlier this year for a mutual fund (MF) licence, joining competitors in the race to establish an asset management company (AMC). PhonePe confirmed that it is acquiring WealthDesk and OpenQ, but did not disclose the transaction's value. "PhonePe is acquiring WealthDesk. The founder and the entire team will be working as a part of the PhonePe group and both the platforms will remain independent," a PhonePe spokesperson said.

percent of its balance sheet. According to the Bimal Jalan committee's report, the RBI must always maintain a 5.5 percent contingency risk buffer. The transfer this year is significantly less than what the central bank made in the previous fiscal year — Rs 99,126 crore. "The Board approved the transfer of Rs 30,307 crore as surplus to the Centre for the year 2021-22, while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50%," the RBI statement said.



Jet Airways Gets DGCA Approval To Start Commercial Flights :-

Jet Airways has been granted an air operator's permit by the DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation). After being grounded for more than three years, this will allow the airline to resume commercial flight operations. The approval follows the completion of proving flights for the safety regulator between May 15 and May 17. Jet Airways has met all of the pre-conditions laid out by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as part of the insolvency process for the transfer of ownership of the airline to the successful resolution applicant with the grant of the permit. The airline plans to begin operations in the second quarter, which runs from July to September.



RBI Authorises A Surplus Transfer To The Central Government Of Rs 30,307 Crore :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a Rs 30,307 crore surplus transfer to the government for fiscal year 2021-22 in a statement issued following its board meeting. The decision was made after the company decided to keep its contingency risk buffer at 5.50



ONGC first Indian Exploration & Production company to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange :-

In a statement State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation limited (ONGC) announced that it is the first gas producer to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange, trading unspecified volumes from its eastern offshore KG-DWN-98/2 block. ONGC stated in a statement that it will gradually increase volumes. Following the deregulation of the gas pricing ecosystem in 2000-21, ONGC has prepared to reap the benefits. Anurag Sharma, ONGC Director (Onshore) & In-charge Marketing, stated, "The quantity sold by ONGC through the Gas Exchange will be enhanced slowly,". According to the statement, ONGC is ready to realise a higher value for every molecule of gas available for sale.



Total Energies Of France To Purchase Share In Adani's Hydrogen Business :-

The French oil and gas conglomerate, Total Energies, is expected to acquire a 10% or greater stake in Adani Group's hydrogen business through the newly formed Adani New Industries Ltd. (ANIL). According to sources close to the development, the deal is nearing completion, and an announcement is expected within the next few months. Total previously partnered with Adani in India in 2018, investing in Adani Gas Limited, city gas distribution, associated LNG terminal business, and gas marketing business. Total acquired a 37.4% stake in Adani Gas Limited and a 50% stake in the Dhamra LNG project.

9: International



Robert Golob Elected As Prime Minister Of Slovenia :-

In elections in a country divided by bitter political divisions over the rule of law, political newcomer liberal Robert Golob defeated Slovenia's three-time Prime Minister conservative Janez Jansa. Golob's Freedom Movement (GS), which he founded in January, grew out of dissatisfaction with Jansa's regime in the former

Yugoslav state. Since retaking power in 2020, Jansa has been accused by the opposition of attempting to undermine democratic institutions and press freedoms. With nearly all votes counted in the country of around two million people, the Freedom Movement (GS) had 34.5 percent of the vote to Jansa's Slovenian Democratic Party's 23.6 percent.



US Lists India, Russia And China On Its Intellectual Property Protection Priority Watch List :-

India, China, Russia, and four other countries have been added to the United States' annual 'Priority Watch List' for intellectual property protection and enforcement. Argentina, Chile, Indonesia, and Venezuela are among the other countries on the Office of the United States Trade Representative's list. All seven countries on this year's list were also on the previous year's. US Trade Representative Katherine Tai stated in her "Special 301 Report" on the adequacy and effectiveness of US trading partners' intellectual property rights protection and enforcement that these countries will be the subject of particularly intense bilateral engagement in the coming year.



Emmanuel Macron is elected as French President for another term :-



BHIM UPI became operational at NEOPAY terminals in the UAE :-

The international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), has announced that BHIM UPI is now available at NEOPAY terminals across the UAE. This initiative will enable millions of Indians who travel to the UAE to make payments using BHIM UPI in a secure and convenient manner. Last year, NIPL and NEOPAY, Mashreq Bank's payment subsidiary, collaborated to build the UAE's acceptance infrastructure. With the acceptance of BHIM UPI in the UAE, Indian tourists can now make payments using BHIM UPI at NEOPAY enabled shops and merchant stores. This collaboration will be critical in transforming the P2M payment experience for Indian travellers in the UAE.

Emmanuel Macron was elected President of France for a second term after defeating his far-right opponent, Marine Le Pen. Macron has stated that his government will be open to "anyone who supports his project," but talks will be difficult. He has also stated that the environment will be a focal point of his second term, and that his new prime minister will be tasked with "ecological planning." Data show that only the poorest 5% are worse off than they were five years ago, but after a sustained squeeze, a large number of voters said they were struggling to make ends meet, and the cost of living became the campaign's central issue. Macron has stated that if energy prices continue to rise, he will maintain price caps on gas and electricity, as well as a government rebate on fuel prices at the pump. He has also proposed additional measures, such as increased assistance for low-wage and self-employed workers.



Asian Games 2022 In China Postponed To 2023 :-

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Asian Games 2022, which were scheduled to take place in September in the Chinese city of Hangzhou, have been postponed until 2023. According to reports, the Asian Games will be postponed until 2023 by the Olympic Council of Asia. The call, which was first confirmed by Chinese state media, was made as China is dealing with a resurgence of Covid-19 infections. Shanghai, the country's financial hub, has been under lockdown for a month, while more restrictions have been imposed in Beijing, which is now on edge. The decision comes despite China's successful

hosting of the Winter Olympics in Beijing earlier this year. There were strict Covid-19 protocols in place and the Games were held behind closed doors in February 2022.



Nepal's Kami Rita Sherpa Climbs Mount Everest For 26th Time :-

According to a government official a Nepalese Sherpa scaled Mount Everest for the 26th time, breaking his own record set last year. Kami Rita Sherpa, 52, led 10 other Sherpa climbers up the 8,848.86-meter mountain via the traditional southeast ridge route. "Kami Rita has broken his own record and established a new world record in climbing," Taranath Adhikari, director general of the tourism department in Kathmandu, said. The route used by Kami Rita was pioneered in 1953 by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese sherpa Tenzing Norgay and is still the most popular. This year, Nepal has issued 316 permits to climb Everest during the peak season, which runs from April to May, compared to 408 last year, which was the highest number ever.



Sri Lanka Faces Economic Crisis With Increasing International Debts :-

In recent days the unprecedented economic crisis in Sri Lanka has worsened. After weeks of protests calling for the Rajapaksa brothers to step down, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned on May 9. The Sri Lankan economy is experiencing one of its worst economic crises since its independence from Britain in 1948, as a result of mismanaged government finances and ill-timed tax cuts, in addition to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to a severe lack of foreign currency, Rajapaksa's government was unable to pay for essential imports such as fuel, resulting in debilitating power outages lasting up to 13 hours.



John Lee Ka-Chiu Elected As Hong Kong's Next Chief Executive :-

A pro-Beijing committee in Hong Kong has chosen an official who oversaw a crackdown on the city's democracy movement as its next chief executive. John Lee received 1,416 votes from the Election Committee's 1,500 members. Eight people voted against him. The sole candidate in the polls was the former Hong Kong secretary for security, who ran under the slogan "Starting a new chapter for Hong Kong together." The US sanctioned the 64-year-old in 2020 for his role in enforcing a Beijing-imposed national security law that has crushed the city's democracy movement. More than 150 people have been arrested under the legislation,

which outlaws what it terms secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces to intervene in the city's affairs.



Yoon Suk-yeol Takes Oath As South Korea's New President:-

Yoon Suk-yeol, South Korea's new president, has been sworn in, promising a "audacious" plan to North Korea as well as strengthening the South's democracy and freedoms. Yoon, a former prosecutor, won the election by the slimmest of margins in March, promising to "sternly deal" with Kim Jong Un's regime while leaving the door open to dialogue. Predecessor Moon Jae-in pursued a policy of engagement with the North holding a summit with Kim in 2018. He also arranged two summits between Kim and then-US President Donald Trump before relations soured in 2019. Denuclearization talks have been stalled since then.



Vietnam Opens World's Longest Glass-Bottomed Bridge :-

Vietnam has recently launched its newest tourist attraction. According to reports, the Asian nation has opened a glass-bottomed bridge suspended 150 metres (490 feet) above a lush jungle. The Bach Long pedestrian bridge, which translates to "white dragon," is located in the northwest Son La province, and it spans a spectacular and dramatic valley between two peaks. According to reports, the bridge has a total length of 632 m, and the glass floor is made of French-produced tempered glass. The bridge can support up to 450 people at the same time. Referring to this, Hoang Manh Duy, a representative of the bridge's operator, stated that when on the bridge, visitors will be able to admire the beauty of nature.



South Korea Becomes 1st Asian Country Join NATO Cyber Defence Group :-

Becoming the group's second East Asian member after Japan South Korea joined NATO's cyber defence group on May 5. This move comes at a time when South Korea has been a frequent target of North Korean cyberattacks. Last year, North Korea launched a cyberattack on the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), South Korea's nuclear research institute. According to media reports, this attack raised the possibility of South Korean nuclear secrets being leaked to North Korea. South Korea's top spy agency, the National Intelligence Service

(NIS), announced that it had been accepted as a "contributing participant" to the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) in Tallinn, Estonia.



Deepika Padukone Named As 1st Indian Brand Ambassador Of Louis Vuitton :-

Deepika Padukone has been named the first Indian brand ambassador for the luxury brand Louis Vuitton. The French brand announced the news. During their new handbag campaign, the brand revealed the role of a 36-year-old Bollywood actress. Padukone appeared in promotional photos alongside Emma Stone and Zhou Dongyu. Padukone is frequently photographed wearing Louis Vuitton clothing and bags, and she has previously modelled for the brand. She was the first Indian actor to appear in the brand's 2020 campaign, posing for a mock book cover alongside stars like Lea Seydoux and Sophie Turner.



Marcos Jr. Wins 2022 Presidential Election In Philippines :-

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. won a stunning runaway victory in the Philippines' presidential election, the first by a majority since his late father's two-decade dictatorship was overthrown in 1986. An unofficial tally showed Marcos, popularly known as "Bongbong," had exceeded the 27.5 million votes required for a majority, paving the way for the Marcos family's once-unthinkable return to rule, 36 years after its humiliating retreat into exile during a "people power" uprising. Despite its demise, the Marcos family returned from exile in the 1990s and has remained a powerful force in Philippine politics, owing to its vast wealth and extensive connections.



Czech Republic Has Been Approved To Replace Russia On The UN Human Rights Council :-

The Czech Republic was elected to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council by the United Nations General Assembly to replace Russia, which was suspended last month for its invasion of Ukraine and then abruptly left the 47-member body. Russia was in the second year of its three-year term. The Czech Republic will serve out the remainder of the term on the council, which cannot make legally binding decisions. Its decisions, however, carry political weight, and it has the authority to order investigations. The Czech Republic was elected with 157 votes in favour and 23 abstentions. Its terms begin immediately. The US led a rare push to suspend Russia

following its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, which Moscow describes as a "special military operation."



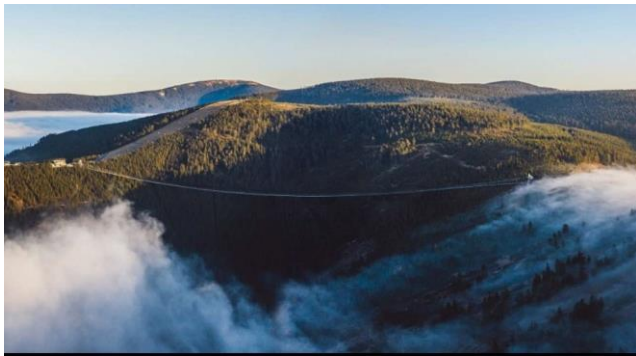
India Contributes USD 800,000 To Promote The Hindi Language At UN :-

As part of an initiative to improve the organization's public outreach in Hindi India has contributed USD 800,000 to the United Nations. R Ravindra, India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, presented a check for a UN project launched in 2018 to disseminate information about the UN to the Hindi-speaking population around the world. Since 2018, India has collaborated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) by providing an extra-budgetary contribution to mainstream and consolidate DGC news and multimedia content in Hindi. According to a statement, the UN News in Hindi has been distributed since 2018 through the UN's website, social media handles, and a UN Facebook Hindi page.



Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Appointed President Of UAE :-

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been elected President of the United Arab Emirates by the country's Supreme Council. He succeeded Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who passed away at the age of 73. Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ), the former president's half-brother, has been the de facto ruler of the UAE for years, especially since Khalifa's stroke in 2014. PM Modi took to Twitter to congratulate Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as President of the United Arab Emirates. He wrote, "My best wishes to the Ruler of Abu Dhabi H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on being elected as the new President of the UAE".



Sky Bridge 721: World's Longest Suspension Bridge Opened In Czech Republic :-

The world's largest suspension bridge has opened to tourists in the Czech Republic. The bridge, which had been under construction for nearly two years, was officially opened on May 16th. It is known as 'Sky Bridge 721.' The walkway promises breathtaking views of the cloud-shrouded Jesenky mountains. The bridge connects two mountain ridges and hangs 95 metres (312 feet) above a valley, accessible via cable car. It is 721 metres (2365 feet) long. Tourists will enter at an elevation of 1,125 metres and exit at a height of 10 metres. It will be one-way walk for visitors who visit the bridge. Upon

exiting the other side, they will step on a paved pathway in a forest where the visitors will get to know about Czech history.



Somalia Elects Hassan Sheikh Mohamud As New President :-

After a landslide victory over incumbent President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, aka Farmaajo, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud made history as the first person to be elected president twice in Somalia's nascent democracy. Both men advanced to the third round of what was arguably the most competitive election in the country's history, in a field of more than 36 candidates. Mohamud, 66, eventually won and will now lead the African nation's affairs for the next four years. Mohamud served as head of the Federal Government of Somalia from 2012 to 2017, the first government formed following the end of a long period of turbulence that began in 1991. The longstanding civil society activist and educationist had only fully joined politics in 2011 when he founded the Union for Peace and Development Party.



Dr Kamal Bawa Elected To US' National Academy Of Sciences :-

Dr. Kamal Bawa, an Indian-born conservation biologist and president of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research and Ecology and Environment (ATREE), has been elected to the United States National Academy of Sciences, according to a statement from ATREE. "The election is the reaffirmation of our important work on the ecology, conservation, and management of tropical forests that are declining all over the world but are critical to humanity's well-being," Bawa said in a statement released to the media. He added that election to the 170-year-old academy is a recognition of its members' significant contributions to science. Dr. Bawa is also a Royal Society (London) and American Philosophical Society fellow.



Emmanuel Macron Named Elisabeth Borne As France's New Prime Minister :-

Elisabeth Borne, a centrist politician, was named France's new prime minister, becoming only the second woman in history to hold the position. Borne, 61, was the labour minister in French President Emmanuel Macron's previous government. She replaces Jean Castex, whose resignation was expected following Macron's reelection to a second five-year term last month. Macron and Borne are expected to form a new French government within the next few days. Borne's first task will be to ensure that Macron's centrist party and its allies do well in the June parliamentary election in France. The vote, which will

take place in two rounds, will determine which party holds the majority of seats in the National Assembly.



China Plans World's First Habitable Planet Search With Space Telescope :-

According to official media, Chinese scientists have proposed a space project to survey the sky with a space-borne telescope in search of habitable Earth-like planets outside the solar system, approximately 32 light-years from Earth. If carried out, the Closeby Habitable Exoplanet Survey (CHES) project will be the first space mission specifically designed to search for habitable terrestrial planets around nearby Sun-like stars, according to the report. Exploration of habitable planets outside the solar system is a key frontier of fundamental astronomical research. The CHES will conduct a long-term survey of about 100 Sun-like stars 32 light-years away in the hopes of discovering 50 Earth-like planets or super-Earths, planets that are up to 10 times the mass of Earth.



NatGeo Installed World's Highest Weather Station On Mt. Everest :-

According to Nepalese media, a team of National Geographic Society experts installed the "world's highest weather station" on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres to automatically measure various meteorological phenomena. The solar-powered weather monitoring system is designed to measure a variety of meteorological phenomena such as air temperature, wind speed and direction, air pressure, change in snow surface height, and incoming and outgoing short and long wave radiation. According to the report, a Chinese expedition also installed an automatic meteorological monitoring system on the northern side of Everest at an altitude of 8,800 metres. According to Chinese media reports, Beijing has eight stations set up on Mt Everest ranging in altitude from 5,200 to 8,800 metres.



Anthony Albanese Sworn In As Australia's New Prime Minister :-

Anthony Albanese, the leader of Australia's Labor Party, was sworn in as the country's new prime minister. Albanese won the election, ending his nine-year wait for power. As a result, Anthony Albanese became the country's 31st Prime Minister. Scott Morrison, the outgoing Prime Minister who led the Liberal-National coalition, has conceded defeat. The 59-year-old new prime minister was sworn in at Government House in Canberra during a brief ceremony. Foreign Minister

Penny Wong, who will join Albanese at the Quad summit, Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Finance Minister Katy Gallagher, and others will join him.



Jose Ramos-Horta Sworn In As President Of East Timor :-

On the eve of the country's 20th anniversary of independence former independence fighter and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos-Horta was sworn in as East Timor's president. Ramos-Horta, 72, who led the resistance during Indonesia's occupation, called for national reconciliation and unity as he took the oath of office just before midnight local time, 20 years after the country declared independence. The new president promised to reduce poverty, improve maternal and child health care, and promote dialogue to restore political stability. He predicted that East Timor, formally known as Timor-Leste, would become the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) within the next two years.



Belgium Becomes First Country To Make Quarantine Compulsory For Monkeypox Patients :-

After four cases of monkeypox were reported, Belgium became the first country to make a 21-day quarantine mandatory for patients. Monkeypox is a disease related to smallpox that causes a distinct bumpy rash, fever, sore

muscles, and a headache. Monkeypox is less lethal than smallpox, with a mortality rate of less than 4%, but experts are concerned about the disease's unusual spread outside of Africa, where it is normally found. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization reported 92 confirmed cases in 12 different countries, with 28 suspected cases being investigated.

10: Miscellaneous



Deepika Padukone On Cannes Film Festival Jury :-

Deepika Padukone, the actress, will serve on the main jury at the Cannes Film Festival. Beginning her film career with the Kannada film Aishwarya, in which she played the titular character, she rose to prominence with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Om Shanti Om in 2007, for which she received a Filmfare Award. Later, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Bajirao Mastani, Padmaavat, and Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela, as well as Piku, in which she co-starred with the late Irrfan Khan and Amitabh Bachchan, cemented her place in Hindi cinema. She also appeared in the Hollywood film XXX: Return of Xander Cage. Padukone's most recent films include Piku (2015), Padmaavat (2018), and Gehraiyaan (2022). Padukone was also named to Time Magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2018. She established The Live Love Laugh Foundation in 2015 with the goal of de-stigmatizing mental illness and raising awareness about mental health issues.



Haryana government to build stadium in Neeraj Chopra's hometown :-

In Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra's hometown of Panipat Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced the construction of a stadium . The chief minister made the announcement after inaugurating a cooperative sugar mill in Panipat, saying Haryana's Neeraj Chopra had made the country and the state proud by winning an Olympic gold medal last year. "A stadium would be built in Neeraj Chopra's village for Rs 10 crore," he announced. Khandra, the hometown of Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, is located in Panipat. Chopra became the first Indian to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field last year. According to Khattar, Haryana has become a sports hub, with players from the state bringing home medals at various national and international sporting events.

HDFC Life

HDFC Life Joined The United Nations As A Signatory :-

HDFC Life has signed up for the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), exemplifying its goal of long-term value creation and sustainable growth. HDFC Life is dedicated to adhering to the principles of Responsible Investment (RI). The Company believes that it is the Company's fiduciary responsibility as an active asset manager for policyholders who have entrusted their savings to HDFC Life to generate optimal risk adjusted returns over the long term. This goal can be met by using the RI approach, which includes core stewardship principles and taking into account environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in addition to financial parameters and outlook when making investment decisions. This framework complements HDFC Life's philosophy of long-term growth. The Company currently has Assets Under Management of over Rs. 2 lakh crores.



Rajasthan's 'Miyani Ka Bada' Railway Station Renamed To 'Mahesh Nagar Halt' :-

According to a report, the 'Miyani Ka Bada' railway station in Balotra area of Rajasthan's Barmer district has been officially renamed 'Mahesh Nagar Halt.' The event was

attended by Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhary, and others. Earlier in 2018, the village's name was changed from 'Miyani ka Bada' to Mahesh Nagar, but the railway station's name was not changed. "It is a long process. Both Central government and state government gives their nod and then the name of the railway station changes," Union Minister Shekhawat stated.



BCCI Bans Journalist Boria Majumdar For 2 Years In Wriddhiman Saha Case :-

For "threatening and intimidating" India wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha BCCI has banned journalist Boria Majumdar for two years. The ban, which includes no press accreditation for any matches in India, an embargo on interviewing centrally contracted players, and no access to any of the cricket board's or state units' facilities, became effective following the recommendations of the Apex Council's three-member fact-finding committee. The decision was made after the Indian cricket board formed a three-member committee, consisting of vice-president Rajeev Shukla, treasurer Arun Dhumal, and councillor Prabhtej Singh Bhatia, to investigate Wriddhiman Saha's allegations that he was bullied by a journalist after refusing to agree to an interview. Notably, the 3-member committee heard from both Saha and Boria Majumdar before recommending the 2-year ban to the BCCI Apex Council.



Mindtree, L&T Infotech Announce Merger To Create India’s 5th Largest IT Services :-

Two independently listed IT services companies within the Larsen & Toubro Group, L&T Infotech and Mindtree, announced a merger that will result in India's fifth-largest IT services provider. The new entity will be called "LTI Mindtree." At their respective meetings, the boards of directors of Mindtree and L&T Infotech (LTI) approved a composite scheme of amalgamation of both of these independently listed IT services companies under the Larsen & Toubro Group. Mindtree and LTI will combine their strengths to form an efficient and scaled-up IT services provider worth more than USD 3.5 billion, according to a statement from Mindtree. Improved large-deal capabilities are expected as a result of improved customer engagement and delivery model through industrialization of delivery and streamlined value-enabling processes.



Priyanka Mohite becomes first Indian woman to climb five peaks above 8,000 metres :-

After climbing Mount Kanchenjunga, Priyanka Mohite of Satara in western Maharashtra became the first Indian

woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres. Priyanka (30), the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020 winner, has completed her expedition to Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), the world's third highest mountain. In April 2021, she had scaled Mt Annapurna (8,091 m), the 10th highest mountain peak in the world and had become the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat. Priyanka has also climbed the world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 m) in 2013, Mount Lhotse (8,516 m) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 m) and Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) in 2016.



Anurag Thakur Launches Mascot, Logo And Jersey Of Khelo India Youth Games :-

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur unveiled the mascot 'Dhakad,' as well as the official logo and jersey of the Fourth Khelo India Youth Games, in Panchkula, and praised Haryana's efforts to host the games. During the function, Thakur was accompanied by Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, and Haryana Sports Minister Sandeep Singh. “The mascot of the games is ‘Dhakad’ and I am sure that these games will also be Dhakad. Khelo India Games are the brainchild of PM Narendra Modi and his vision of how to take India forward in sports. The Khelo India University Games at Bengaluru saw the participation of more than 3,500 players and a total of 7,500 players and officials.” remarked Thakur at the function



5000-Year-Old Jewellery Factory Rooted Out In Haryana's Indus Valley Site Rakhi Garhi :-

In Rakhigarhi village, Haryana, one of the oldest Indus Valley sites the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has made an important discovery. "Similar excavations have happened before and this is the third phase" said Sanjay K Manjul, ASI's joint director general. He added saying that "well-led planning could be observed there, with streets and walls along with it, house complexes, drainage systems, burnt brick structural support and varieties of pottery components with many paintings showing their improved baking technique." Copper and gold objects were discovered, as well as artefacts, beads, sealed scripts with motifs, and ceilings with Harappan script and elephant depictions. This demonstrates their cultural diversity.



Biggest White Diamond Ever 'The Rock' Sold For \$18.8 Million :-

The largest white diamond ever auctioned, The Rock, sold for 18.6 million Swiss francs (\$18.8 million), falling far short of the record price for such a jewel. Christie's auction house in Geneva sold the 228.31-carat stone, which was larger than a golf ball. The world record for a white diamond is still \$33.7 million, which was paid for a 163.41-carat gem in the Swiss city in 2017. The Rock, a perfectly symmetrical pear-shaped diamond, was in the possession of an unidentified North American owner. Following the action at the Hotel des Bergues, it was purchased by a telephone bidder. Max Fawcett, head of the jewels department at Christie's auction house in Geneva, said there were only a handful of diamonds of similar size and quality to The Rock.



Outbreak Of Tomato Flu In Southern Parts Of India :-

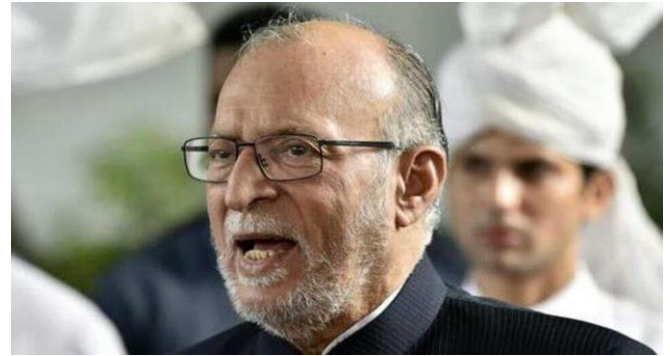
With at least 82 cases of 'tomato flu' reported in the state's Kollam district as of May 13 pandemic-battered Kerala is bracing for a new public health crisis. Young children are especially vulnerable to this highly infectious disease, which causes fever, red skin rashes, and dehydration. To monitor the spread of tomato flu in Kollam, the state health department has formed a surveillance team. Anganwadi centres are being screened for infected children under the age of five. The flu was first reported in the border villages of Aryankavu, Anchal, and Neduvathur on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border, and then spread to other areas. On May 6, the

first case of a four-year-old child in Aryankavu was reported.



British Mountaineer Kenton Cool Becomes First Foreigner To Scale Everest 16 Times:-

A British climber has summited the world's highest mountain for the 16th time, becoming the first foreign climber to do so. Kenton is also the first British mountaineer to have climbed Mt Nuptse, Mt Everest, and Mt Lhotse all in the same season in 2013. Kenton reached the summit of Mt Lhotse in less than 29 hours last year after scaling the world's highest peak. Due to high winds, the 48-year-old's push for the summit was delayed, forcing his team to wait below the peak. Many Nepali guides who assist tourists in climbing Everest have completed significantly more ascents. The current record-holder is Kami Rita, a Sherpa who last week climbed the mountain for the 26th time at the age of 52.



Delhi Lg Anil Baijal Submits Resignation To President Ramnath Kovind :-

According to sources, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Anil Baijal resigned for personal reasons and has submitted his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind. Baijal, who took over the office on December 31, 2016, following the unexpected resignation of Najeeb Jung, has been in office for more than five years and four months. Baijal was appointed home secretary in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee administration. The Congress-led UPA government transferred him to the urban development ministry, where he oversaw the planning and implementation of the 60,000 crore Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Baijal was the secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) and held a master's degree in arts from Allahabad University .

11: National



RailTel Inaugurated Mobile Container Hospital At Visakhapatnam :-

In a major step to serve the requirements of health care industry RailTel Corporation of India Ltd, a Central Government PSU of the Ministry of Railways, has designed and established a "Health Cloud" at the Visakhapatnam premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech

Zone (AMTZ), the world's first integrated medical device manufacturing hub. It is a dedicated "Data Centre" that caters to the unique and specialised needs of the health sector. This was accomplished as part of a historic partnership agreement between RailTel and AMTZ. The collaboration intends to create and support advanced digital health services and initiatives such as EMRA (Electronic Medical Record Alliance), Radiology Imaging Services, Health Digital Data Fiduciary Services, and others. It will make it easier to integrate medical equipment, medical processes, and various IP systems and applications linked to health services.



Ministry Of Skill Development Signs MoU With ISRO To Begin Its Training Program :-

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organisation in order to upskill the technical staff at the Department of Space in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary MSDE, and Shri S. Somanath, Secretary Department of Space/ Chairman ISRO, signed the MoU. The programme aims to establish a formal framework for short-term courses that will provide training for the skill development and capacity-building of ISRO technical staff in the space domain in accordance with industry requirements. Over the next five years, more than 4000 ISRO technical employees will be trained in the programme.



NCRTC To Receive India's First Regional Rapid Transit System Train Set At Salvi :-



SC appointed panel for the recovery of money from NSEL defaulters :-

According to a press release from NSEL, the Supreme Court has approved the formation of a Supreme Court Committee headed by Justice (ret'd) Pradeep Nandrajog for the recovery of money from defaulters against whom National Spot Exchange Ltd has secured money decrees. The top court also approved the formation of the committee while exercising its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution. It stated that NSEL has already obtained decrees/arbitration awards totaling Rs. 3,534.46 crore against the defaulters on its own. "Further, an amount of Rs. 760.31 crore worth of defaulters' liabilities have already been crystallized by the High Powered Committee appointed by the Bombay High Court, which NSEL is confident of soon being culminated into Decree", the release said.

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has received the first trainset of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor. Alstom's factory in Savli, Gujarat, is producing the cutting-edge RRTS trainsets as part of the Make in India initiative. The handover ceremony took place in Savli. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs was present at the event. According to reports, these trainsets will be delivered to the Ghaziabad-based Duhai depot. These trainsets will operate on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS route. According to the NCRTC, all operations and maintenance facilities for these trainsets are nearing completion at this depot.



India's First Khadi Centre Of Excellence Inaugurated In Delhi :-

Union Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Raja Rane has inaugurated the first Khadi Centre of Excellence in New Delhi on May 11, 2022. Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Minister of State for Textiles Smt Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles U P Singh, and Secretary, Ministry of MSME B.B Swain attended the event. The Centre of Excellence for Khadi is setup at National Institute of Fashion Technology as a hub in Delhi and spokes in Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, and Shillong. The objective is to design apparel, home furnishing and accessories for people of all generation and creating benchmarked design processes of global standards of quality, design, and merchandising.



Supreme Court Gets 2 New Judges To Regain Full Strength Of 34 :-

In New Delhi, Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court Judge Jamshed B Pardiwala took their oaths as Supreme Court judges. During a ceremony at the newly-built auditorium of the apex court's additional building complex, Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana administered the oath of office to justices Dhulia and Pardiwala. With the addition of Justices Dhulia and Pardiwala, the Supreme Court will regain its full complement of 34 judges, which had been reduced to 32 following the retirement of Justice R Subhash Reddy on January 4 of this year. Justice Pardiwala will go on to serve as the CJI for over two years, sources aware of the procedure to appoint members of the higher judiciary said.



Govt Releases Rs 7,183.42 Crore To 14 States As Revenue Deficit Grant :-

The Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure has released the second monthly instalment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 7,183.42 crore to 14 States. The grant was made available in accordance with the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. For the fiscal year 2022-23, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 86,201 crore to 14 States. The recommended grant will be distributed to the recommended states in 12 equalised monthly instalments by the Department of Expenditure. With this release, the total amount of Revenue Deficit Grants made available to states for fiscal year 2022-23 has increased to Rs. 14,366.84 crore.



'GatiShakti Sanchar' Portal For Centralised Right Of Way (RoW) Launched :-

One of the most important visions of Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, is universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, particularly in rural areas. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, and Railways, has launched the "GatiShakti Sanchar" portal for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals, in accordance with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan. The portal was created with the vision areas of the National Broadband Mission in mind, which are providing broadband infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, governance and on-demand services, and, most importantly, digital empowerment of our country's citizens in mind. National Broadband

Mission (NBM) was set up by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) on December 17, 2019.



In Hyderabad, Amit Shah Inaugurates The National Cyber Forensic Laboratory :-

The National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL), which is expected to expedite cyber crime cases in India, was inaugurated on the campus of Hyderabad's Central Forensic Science Laboratory by union home minister Amit Shah. Shah, too, tweeted about the inauguration and stated that he will be speaking at a public meeting in Tukkuguda, a municipality in Telangana's Rangareddy district. The ministry of home affairs (MHA) gave its nod to the establishment of the NCFL for evidentiary purposes in CFSL, Hyderabad, in December last year. On March 22, minister of state for home affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra told the Lok Sabha in a written response: "A state-of-the-art NCFL has been established at CyPAD, Dwarka, New Delhi to provide early-stage cyber forensic assistance to Investigating Officers (IOs) of State/UT Police."



National Data And Analytics Platform Launched By NITI Aayog :-

On May 13, NITI Aayog launched the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) for open public use. By making data accessible, interoperable, interactive, and available on a user-friendly platform, the platform aims to democratise access to public government data. It hosts foundational datasets from various government agencies, organises them, and provides analytics and visualisation tools. This public launch comes after the platform's beta release in August 2021, which gave a limited number of users access for testing and feedback. NDAP follows a use-case based approach to ensure that the datasets hosted on the platform are tailored to the needs of data users from government, academia, journalism, civil society, and the private sector. All datasets are standardized to a common schema, which makes it easy to merge datasets and do cross-sectoral analysis.



Indian Government Prohibited The Wheat Export With Immediate Effect :-

The government has restricted wheat exports by classifying them as "prohibited." The commerce ministry stated in an order issued on May 16 that this is being done to manage the country's overall food security and to support the needs of neighbouring and vulnerable nations. According to reports, the government was set to decide whether to slow down wheat exports due to

concerns about a drop in wheat stocks with the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The issue of wheat stock with the government to meet the statutory requirement under food security law and other welfare schemes had been brought before the ministerial committee chaired by Union home minister Amit Shah. Officers had flagged concerns over the present pace of export of wheat to other countries and the likely trend for the next few months due to the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war.



Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme to eliminate income gaps in India :-

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) suggested that the government implement a demand-based guaranteed employment scheme for the urban unemployed similar to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). It also proposed a universal basic income (UBI) and increased funding for the social sector in order to reduce inequality in the country. The Council noted that while wages have been growing, these are concentrated, marginalising the poor. "Looking at the difference between the labour force participation rate in rural and urban areas, it is our understanding that the urban equivalent of schemes like MGNREGS that are demand-based and offer guaranteed employment should be introduced so that the surplus labour is rehabilitated," a report titled 'The State of Inequality in India', commissioned by the EAC-PM and prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness, said.



Supreme Court Has Ordered The Release Of Rajiv Gandhi's Assassination Suspect :-

The Supreme Court, using its special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, ordered the release of A

G Perarivalan, one of seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The order came 24 years after a lower court sentenced Perarivalan to death in the case, and two months after the Supreme Court granted him bail. Perarivalan was apprehended on June 11, 1991, just weeks after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in a suicide bombing in Tamil Nadu on May 21, 1991. "In exercise of our power under Article 142 of the Constitution, we direct that the Appellant is deemed to have served the sentence in connection with (the) crime. The Appellant, who is already on bail, is set at liberty forthwith. His bail bonds are cancelled," the apex court ordered.

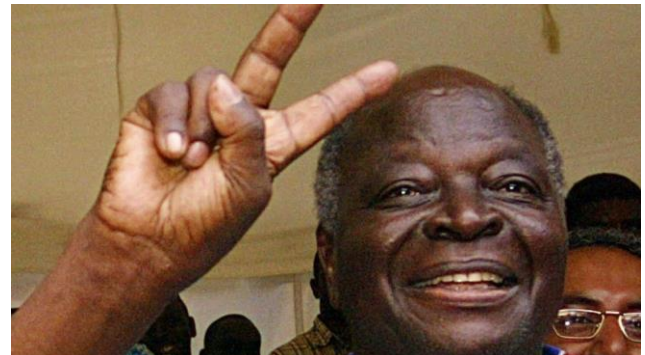
12: Obituaries



Noted Padma Shri Writer Binapani Mohanty Passes Away :-

Binapani Mohanty, a legendary Odia writer, died at her Cuttack home due to age-related complications, according to her family. Mohanty has written more than 100 books. She is best known for her songs 'Patadei,' 'Kasturi Mriga O Sabuja Aranya,' 'Khela Ghara,' 'Naiku Rasta,' 'Bastraharana,' and 'Andhakarara.' She was also an academic, teaching Economics at Sailabala Women's College. She was the younger sister of the late eminent doctor Nirupama Rath and advocate Sachinadanda Mohanty. Mohanty also received the Sahitya Akademi Award, Sarala Samman, and Atibadi Jagannatha Das

Sammana from the Odisha Sahitya Akademi in addition to the Padma Shri in 2020.



Former President Of Kenya Mwai Kibaki Passes Away :-

Mwai Kibaki, Kenya's former president, died at the age of 90. President Uhuru Kenyatta announced Kibaki's death, saying it was a sad day for the country and praising his predecessor as a great Kenyan. "Mwai Kibaki will forever be remembered as a gentleman in Kenyan politics, a brilliant debater and one who steered development in the country," Kenyatta said. Kibaki was president of the East African country for two terms, from 2002 to 2013.

During his tenure, Kenya experienced the most violent election in its history, with over 1,100 people killed in bloody ethnic battles following disputed 2007 polls, but he also oversaw the adoption of a new constitution with reforms aimed at preventing such unrest.



Padma Shri Structural Biologist M. Vijayan Passes Away :-

M Vijayan, a leading structural biologist who pioneered protein crystallography in India, died in Bengaluru. Vijayan, a former president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), was 80 years old when he died. Vijayan, who was born in Cherpu in Kerala's Thrissur district, made significant contributions to the study of amino acids, proteins, and macromolecules. In 1987, he was elected as a Fellow of INSA, and he was also a Fellow of several other major Academies, including TWAS. INSA said in the post "INSA family mourns the loss of such a doyen of the field and outstanding human being and sends the bereaved family condolences". He received numerous honours, including the SS Bhatnagar Award, the Ranbaxy Award, the OP Bhasin Award, and the first GN Ramachandran Medal from the Indian Science Congress Association.



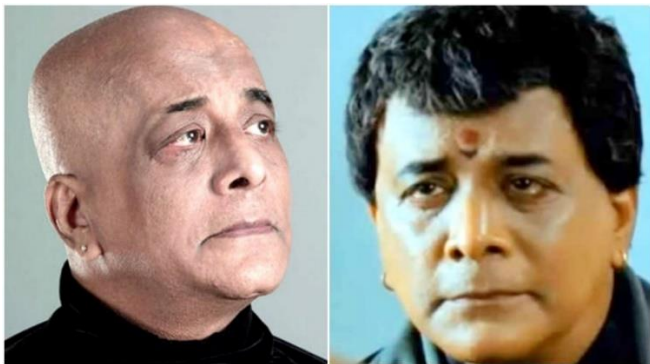
Former Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain Elvera Britto Passes Away :-

Elvera Britto, the former captain of the Indian women's hockey team, died as a result of age-related complications. She was 81 years old. She was India's representative against Australia, Sri Lanka, and Japan. Elvera was only the second woman hockey player, after Anne Lumsden, to receive the Arjuna Award in 1965. (1961). Elvera's death was mourned by Hockey India. "It is saddening to learn about the passing away of Elvera Britto. She was ahead of her times and achieved so much in women's hockey and continued to serve the sport as an administrator with the state," Gyanendro Ningombam, president of HI, said in a statement. "On behalf of Hockey India and the entire hockey fraternity, we would like to express our deepest condolences to her family" he said.



Former CM of Meghalaya J D Rymbai passes away :-

James Dringwell Rymbai, a veteran statesman and former chief minister of Meghalaya, died at the age of 88. Rymbai entered electoral politics in 1982, when he was elected to the Meghalaya assembly from the Jirang constituency on an Indian National Congress ticket, and was later appointed deputy speaker of the legislative assembly. In 1993, 1998, and 2003, he won three consecutive terms as MLA from the Jirang assembly constituency in the state's Ri-Bhoi region. Rymbai was elected as the Meghalaya Assembly's speaker in 1993. On June 15, 2006, the veteran politician was elected CM and served until March 2007. Rymbai had replaced incumbent DD Lapang in the wake of dissidence within the then ruling Congress party against the latter.



Film And TV Actor Salim Ghose Passes Away :-

Salim Ghose, a veteran stage, television, and film actor who appeared in several Bollywood and south Indian films including 'Bharat Ek Khoj,' 'Wagle Ki Duniya,' 'Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi,' and 'Subah,' died of a cardiac arrest in Mumbai. He was 70 years old. The actor was born in Chennai and attended school there. He then attended the FTII in Pune before venturing into the world of theatre. Ghose, known for his diverse roles, was equally popular in Bollywood and south Indian films. Since his debut in 1978 with 'Swarg Nark,' Ghose has shared screen space with some of the biggest stars and

collaborated with many popular banners. Later in his career, he appeared in several award-winning films, including 'Chakra' (1981), 'Saaraansh' (1984), and 'Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho!' (1984).



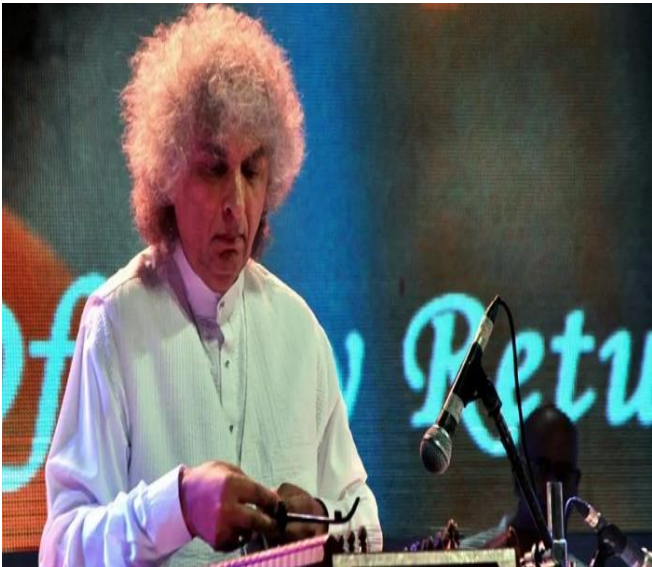
Last Surviving F1 Race Winner From 1950s Tony Brooks Passes Away :-

Tony Brooks, the last surviving 1950s Formula One race winner, died on May 4, 2022, at the age of 90. Brooks, who was born Charles Anthony Standish Brooks on February 25, 1932, was known as the "Racing Dentist" because he famously combined his studies in dentistry at the University of Manchester with the start of his racing career. He became a dentist in 1956. Tony Brooks was a lightning fast driver who won six Grand Prix despite only having 38 starts. He narrowly missed out on the world championship in 1959 and was regarded as one of the best British racers to never win the title, alongside Stirling Moss.



Padma Shri Odia Writer Rajat Kumar Kar Passes Away :-

An eminent Odia Litterateur, and a Padma Shri awardee Rajat Kumar Kar has been passed away in a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. Rajat Kumar Kar was 88 years old and suffered from a heart condition. On the death of Rajat Kumar Kar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik were among those who expressed their condolences. Kar's funeral will also be held with full state honours, according to the Chief Minister. Rajat Kumar Kar received the Padma Shri Award in 2021 for his outstanding contributions to literature and education. Rajat Kumar Kar was a Jagannath Culture orator. For six decades, he was also known for his commentary on TV and radio during the annual Rath Yatra. Rajat Kumar Kar was also instrumental in the revival of Odisha's dying art of Pala.



Padma Vibhushan Pandit Shivkumar Sharma Passes Away :-

Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, a legendary musician and santoor player, died on May 10 from a cardiac arrest. He was 84 years old. Pandit Shivkumar Sharma had been suffering from kidney problems for the past six months.

He was also undergoing dialysis. Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, who was born in Jammu, began learning santoor at the age of thirteen. In 1955, he gave his first public performance in Mumbai. In 1967, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma collaborated with flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia and guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra to create the acclaimed concept album Call of the Valley. He is credited with popularising santoor. Pandit Shivkumar Sharma was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001.



World's Oldest Chess Grandmaster Yuri Averbakh Passes Away:-

The world's oldest grandmaster Yuri Averbakh, died on May 7th, just three months after turning 100. Yuri, who was born on February 8, 1922 in Kaluga, Russia, saw the 2nd World Chess Champion Emanuel Lasker play as a child. Yuri won the formidable USSR Championship in 1954, and he also tied for first two years later. Later in life, he was a well-known chess arbiter, writer, presenter, journalist, and historian, and he remained active until the end. Yuri Averbakh recovered from a COVID scare in 2021 to celebrate his 100th birthday on February 8th this year, with his extraordinary life receiving the widespread recognition it deserved.



Former Union Minister Pandit Sukh Ram Passes Away :-

Pandit Sukh Ram, a veteran Congress leader and former Union minister, has died. Sukh Ram, 94, was admitted to New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on May 7. On May 4, Sukh Ram suffered a brain stroke in Manali and was admitted to the regional hospital in Mandi. He was then airlifted to AIIMS in Delhi for further treatment. From 1993 to 1996, Sukh Ram was the Union Minister of State, Communications (Independent Charge). He was a Lok Sabha member from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi constituency. He was elected to the Vidhan Sabha five times and the Lok Sabha three times. From 1963 to 1984, he served in the Mandi Assembly.



UAE President, HH Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed, Passes Away :-

President of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan died on May 13, according

to local media reports citing the Ministry of Presidential Affairs. He was 73 years old. "The Ministry of Presidential Affairs condoles the people of the UAE, the Arab and Islamic nation and the world over the demise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE," the news agency said in a statement. Sheikh Khalifa has been the President of the United Arab Emirates and the ruler of Abu Dhabi since November 3, 2004. The Ministry of Presidential Affairs has declared 40 days of mourning for the death of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.



Eminent Sanskrit And Hindi Scholar, Padma Shri Dr Rama Kant Shukla Passes Away :-

Dr. Rama Kant Shukla, a Padma Shri Awardee and renowned Sanskrit and Hindi scholar, died in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh (UP). He was born in Khurja, Bulandshahr district, Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Rama Kant Shukla is the founder and general secretary of Delhi's Devavani Parishad, as well as the founding chairman and editor of the quarterly Sanskrit journal "Arvacinasamskrtam." The Indian government awarded him the Padma Shri for literature and education in 2013. In 2009, he received the President's Award in the Sanskrit category. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also expressed deep grief and said, "Deeply saddened by the passing away of Dr. Ramakant Shukla ji, who made invaluable contributions to the world of Sanskrit and Hindi literature."



Former Australia Cricketer Andrew Symonds Dies In Car Accident :-

Andrew Symonds, a former Australia cricketer and two-time World Cup winner, died in a car accident on May 14th. Symonds averaged 40.61 with the bat in 26 Tests for his country, but he was perhaps better known for his white-ball cricket. He played in 198 One-Day Internationals, scoring six centuries and 30 half-centuries and taking 133 wickets with his useful off-spin and medium pace. The swashbuckling right-hander was also a member of Australia's World Cup-winning team in the West Indies in 2007, when they won their fourth 50-over World Cup title. Symonds also appeared in 14 T20s for Australia, scoring 337 runs and taking eight wickets.



Veteran Communist Leader Shivaji Patnaik Passes Away :-

Sivaji Patnaik, a veteran communist leader and former Bhubaneswar MP, died in Bhubaneswar. He was 92 years old. He was a key figure in the formation of the Communist Party of India's (Marxist) Odisha unit. Odisha governor Ganeshi Lal, chief minister Naveen Patnaik, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, senior Congress leader Niranjana Patnaik, and other dignitaries mourned the communist leader's death. The veteran leader had won three times in CPI(M) tickets from Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat in 1977, 1989 and 1991 by defeating Congress candidates. He was the second state secretary of CPI(M) Odisha unit after Banamali Das.

13: Ranks & Reports



India becomes the only country among top 10 steel growth :-

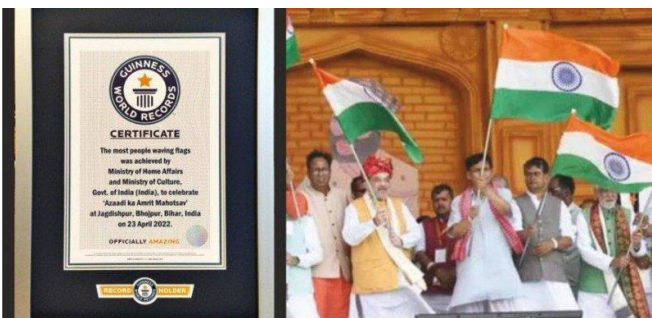
Union Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh congratulated the Indian steel industry on its outstanding performance on a global scale and encouraged it to maintain this level of performance in 2022. According to data released by the World Steel Association (WSA) on April 22, India is the only country among the top ten steel producing nations in the world to have increased steel production from January to March 2022, compared to the same period last year. India produced 31.9 million tonnes of steel during the period, representing a 5.9 percent increase. With a steel

production of 10.9 million tonnes in March 2022, India's growth rate is 4.4 percent. Brazil is the only other country among top 10 nations which has registered growth in the month of March.



NITI Aayog Released Draft Battery Swapping Policy 2022 :-

Just as public trust in electric vehicles was dwindling due to a string of e-scooter fires, the government think-tank NITI Aayog released the long-awaited draught policy on battery swapping. The policy, which is aimed at electric two- and three-wheelers, aims to drive large-scale EV adoption by promoting the use of the nascent but rapidly growing battery swapping technology and encouraging collaboration among stakeholders. Battery swapping is a subset of the Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) business model, in which users purchase an EV without the battery, significantly lowering upfront costs. They pay a monthly subscription fee to service providers for battery services for the duration of the vehicle's life. The batteries must be compatible with various EV models as well as various battery-charging stations.



India Made Guinness Record For Synchronic Waving Of More Than 78,000 National Flags :-

According to the Ministry of Culture, India made history by simultaneously waving 78,220 flags at the 'Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav' programme in Bhojpur, Bihar and entered the Guinness Book of World Records. India made history by flying the most national flags at the same time, earning a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, was present at the historic event. According to the Guinness World Records certificate, "The most people waving flags was done by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Culture, Government of India (India), to commemorate Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Jagdishpur, Bhojpur, Bihar, India on April 23, 2022."



SIPRI's "Trends In World Military Expenditure Report 2021": India Ranked 3rd :-

According to the Stockholm-based defence think-tank SIPRI, global military spending has surpassed USD 2 trillion for the first time, with the United States, the world's largest economy, leading the way. India is ranked third. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) most recent report, total global military expenditure will increase by 0.7% in real terms in 2021, reaching USD 2,113 billion. "The five largest spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure," it said. According to the report, global military spending will

continue to rise in 2021, reaching an all-time high of USD 2.1 trillion. "Even amid the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, world military spending hit record levels," said Dr Diego Lopes da Silva, Senior Researcher with SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme.



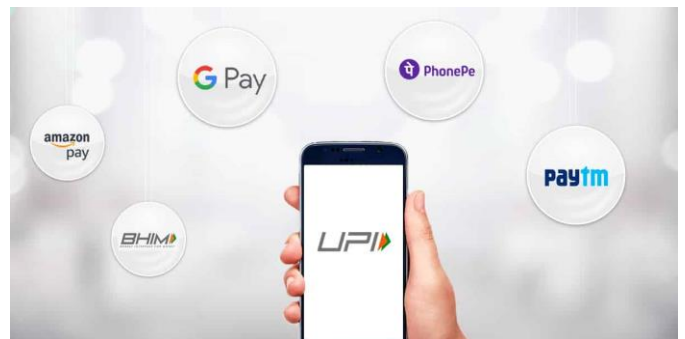
NSO Survey: Unemployment Rate Of India At 8.7% In October-December 2021 :-

According to the National Statistical Office's (NSO) periodic labour force survey, the unemployment rate for people aged 15 and up in urban areas fell to 8.7 percent in October-December 2021, down from 10.3 percent the previous quarter. The percentage of unemployed people in the labour force is defined as the unemployment rate (UR). Joblessness was high in October-December 2020, owing primarily to the crippling impact of the country's lockdown restrictions imposed to combat the spread of the deadly coronavirus. The urban unemployment rate for people aged 15 and up was 9.8 percent in July-September 2021, according to the 13th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).



India Logs 6.2 Percent Increase In Death Rate As Per CRS During 2020:-

The Central Government has issued the Civil Registration System (CRS) report 2020, which is based on birth and death report. According to the report, the number of registered births has decreased from 2.48 crore in 2019 to 2.42 crore in 2020, representing a 2.40 percent decrease. According to the Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System's 2020 report, the number of registered deaths increased from 76.4 lakh in 2019 to 81.2 lakh in 2020, representing a 6.2 percent increase. Males account for 60.2 percent of all registered deaths, while females account for 39.8 percent. Some states and union territories namely Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, and Haryana have contributed significantly to the increased number of deaths registered from 2019 to 2020.



UPI Hits Record 5.58 Bn Transactions Worth Rs 9.83 Trillion In April 2022 :-

In April 2022, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's flagship digital payments platform, recorded 5.58 billion (bn) transactions worth Rs 9.83 trillion, according to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This is the most transactions UPI has ever recorded. The monthly UPI transaction volume increased by 3.33 percent from 5.4 billion transactions worth Rs 9.6 trillion in March 2022. In comparison to April 2021, transaction volume increased by 111%, and transaction value increased by nearly 100%. UPI processed 2.64 billion transactions worth Rs 4.93 trillion in April 2021.



Retail Inflation Surges To 7.79% In April, Highest In 8 Years :-

According to government data, retail inflation in India rose to 7.79 percent in April, owing primarily to rising fuel and food prices. For the fourth month in a row, consumer price inflation remained well above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance limit. In April, CPI inflation rose at its fastest rate in eight years. The previous high was 8.33 percent in May of 2014. The figure for April was higher than 6.95 percent in March and 4.23 percent a year ago. In April, food basket inflation increased to 8.38 percent, up from 7.68 percent the previous month. Food inflation, which accounts for nearly half of the CPI basket, hit a multi-month high in April.



Saudi Aramco Overtook Apple Inc. As The World's Most Valuable Company:-

Stoked by a surge in oil prices that is buoying the crude producer while adding to an inflation surge throttling demand for technology stocks Saudi Aramco overtook Apple Inc. as the world's most valuable company. On May 11, Aramco traded near its all-time high, with a market capitalisation of about \$2.43 trillion, surpassing Apple for the first time since 2020. The iPhone maker fell 5.2 percent to close at \$146.50 per share, giving it a \$2.37 trillion valuation. Even if the move is short-lived and Apple reclaims the top spot, the role reversal highlights the power of major forces at work in the global economy.



Lionel Messi Topped Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes List For 2022 :-

With a reported income of \$130 million Lionel Messi topped the Forbes Highest-Paid Athletes 2022 list, followed by basketball player LeBron James, who earned \$121.2 million, and Cristiano Ronaldo, who earned \$115 million. In August 2021, Messi moved from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain, and Cristiano Ronaldo returned to Manchester United from Juventus. It's Messi's second time at the top of Forbes' list, the first being in 2019. Over the last year, the top ten highest earners, all men, earned a total of \$992 million in pre-tax gross earnings. Forbes bases its estimates on prize money, salaries and bonuses, and sponsorship agreements.



India Overtakes Germany To Become 4th Largest Vehicle Market :-

India saw 3,759,398 vehicles sold in 2021, compared to 2,973,319 vehicles in Germany according to the report from the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA) the international trade association formed of 39 national automotive industry trade associations. This equates to a nearly 26% difference. Interestingly, India rose to fourth place in 2019 and was expected to become the third-largest economy by 2025. It is still possible for the country to reach the position, but it would require surpassing Japan, which had sales of 4,448,340 units in 2021. What's important to note is also the fact that amongst the top 5 markets globally, India was the only country to report double-digit growth (28%).



S&P Cuts India's Economic Growth Forecast To 7.3% For 2022-23 :-



Morgan Stanley cuts India's FY23 growth forecast to 7.6% :-

Morgan Stanley has reduced India's growth forecast for FY23 to 7.6 percent from 7.9 percent previously. According to the report, a slowing global economy, higher commodity prices, and risk aversion in global capital markets expose Asia's third-largest economy to downside risks. "The key will likely be from an adverse impact on business sentiment as a slowdown in demand, higher inflation, and the cost of funding impair balance sheet strength and delay the capex recovery. On the domestic side, a change in policy stance by the government or central bank could expose the economy to macro stability risks, leading to slower growth," the report said.

S&P Global Ratings has reduced India's growth forecast for FY23 to 7.3% from 7.8% due to rising inflationary pressures and a longer-than-expected Russia-Ukraine war. The rating agency raised its inflation forecast for India for the current fiscal year by 90 basis points (bps) to 6.3%. "Since our most recent growth forecast at the end of March, a number of macro variables have deteriorated. These include weaker first-quarter numbers in many countries, higher energy and commodity prices, a longer-than-expected Russia-Ukraine conflict, faster monetary policy normalisation and slower Chinese growth. The balance of risks to our baseline has deteriorated since our last forecast and remains firmly on the downside," S&P said in its latest Global Macro Update.

the average of 2.9 percent from 2010 to 2020, due to sharp increases in food and energy prices.



India's State Of Inequality Report Released :-

Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM), released the State of Inequality in India Report . Extrapolation of PLFS 2019-20 income data shows that a monthly salary of Rs 25,000 is already among the top 10% of total income earned, indicating some levels of income disparity. The top one percent accounts for 6-7 percent of total income earned, while the top ten percent accounts for one-third of total income earned. As if to discourage further investigation into India's inequality, the report stated, "If an amount like this comes in the top 10 percentile, then the bottom-most condition cannot be imagined." The EAC-PM had commissioned this study, which demonstrates the wide chasm between the top and the bottom earners. Also, this gap is getting wider.



United Nations forecasts India's growth rate to be 6.4% in 2022 :-

According to the United Nations, India's growth rate is expected to be 6.4 percent in 2022, down from 8.8 percent in 2021, as higher inflationary pressures and uneven labour market recovery are expected to curb private consumption and investment. The global economy is now expected to grow at 3.1 percent in 2022, down from 4 percent in January, due to a broad deterioration in growth prospects that includes the US, EU, China, and the majority of developing countries. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' World Economic Situation and Prospects report for mid-2022, global inflation is expected to reach 6.7 percent in 2022, more than double

World Air Power Index 2022: Indian Air Force Ranks 3rd :-

In terms of the total fighting strength of the world's various air services the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been ranked third on the World Air Power Index. The World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA)

released the Global Air Powers Ranking of 2022, which ranked the IAF higher than the People's Liberation Army Air Force, also known as the Chinese Air Force. According to the report, the IAF is now ranked higher than the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), the Israeli Air Force, and the French Air and Space Force.

14: Schemes & Committees



Karnataka Govt Launched Social Awareness Campaign "SAANS" :-

Keshava Reddy Sudhakar, Karnataka's Health and Medical Education Minister, has launched the 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully' (SAANS) Campaign. SAANS is a campaign that aims to increase early detection and awareness of pneumonia in children under the age of five. According to SRS 2018, the under-five mortality rate in Karnataka is 28 per 1000 live births. Pneumonia is a type of lung infection caused by a viral, bacterial, or fungal infection. The state's goal is to reduce under-five mortality to 23 per 1,000 people by 2025. Furthermore, in order to meet the National Health Policy objectives, pneumonia mortality must be reduced to less than 3 deaths per 1,000 live births.



ABPMJAY- SEHAT Scheme: Samba Becomes 1st District To Cover 100% Households :-

The Samba district of Jammu division in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first district in India to cover 100 percent of households under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY)-SEHAT scheme. The district reached this milestone following the completion of a special registration drive organised by the State Health Agency (SHA) from April 11 to April 21 in all BDO offices throughout the district, with the goal of covering all families in the district under the ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme. The Samba district has 62,641 families and 3,04,510 people who are eligible for ABPM-JAY SEHAT golden cards. However, the district's Ayushman Bharat Golden Card coverage of 100 percent is a significant achievement for the UT Government.



Chhattisgarh Launched 'Mukhyamantri Mitaan Yojana' :-

Residents of 14 municipal corporations in Chhattisgarh can now receive around 100 public services at their doorstep, including birth, caste, income, and marriage certificates, thanks to a new scheme launched by the state government. According to a government official, CM Bhupesh Baghel has launched the scheme, titled 'Mukhyamantri Mitaan Yojna' (Mitaan stands for friend), which will be implemented as a pilot project in 14 civic bodies, including the state capital Raipur and cities such as Durg, Bilaspur, and Rajnandgaon. Through this scheme, people will have easy access to around 100 services, such as birth, marriage, caste, domicile, income, and death certificates, he said. Under the scheme, the required documents of citizens will be collected from their home through a nominated individual 'Mitaan', who will scan the certificates and get the processes rolling for the issuance of certificates/services, the official said.



Odisha Will Launch India's First Tribal Health Observatory :-

According to officials, Odisha is planning to build India's "only" observatory, which will house data on the state's tribal population's health. The ST and SC Development Department and the RMRC, a regional centre of the Indian Council of Medical Research, signed a memorandum of understanding in this regard, they said. The Tribal Health Observatory (TriHOb) is the "first in the country," according to the Information Department, and is intended to be an effective, evidence-based, and policy-oriented centre. It will conduct systematic and ongoing observations on disease burden, health-seeking behaviour, and the state's tribal health care delivery system. The survey will lay the foundation for further longitudinal cohort studies and policy-oriented research, the officials said.



Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force Jointly Established By India And Germany :-

According to an official statement, India and Germany have signed a joint declaration of intent on the Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force. The joint declaration was signed virtually by Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh and German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Change Robert Habeck, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. According to Singh, India has emerged as a global leader in energy transition, with the world's fastest rate of growth in renewable energy

capacity. Singh emphasised that India has huge ambitions in terms of energy transition. By 2030, it plans to add 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity. India is submitting bids for green hydrogen.



India Embarks On The 'World's Largest' Film Restoration Project :-

Shri. Anurag Singh Thakur Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting has announced that the World's largest film restoration project under National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) with a budget of Rs. 363 crores is awarded on 4th May 2022 by the Ministry. The National Film Archive of India's (NFAI) restoration project, which has now been awarded, is set to begin in earnest. The Minister was in Pune for the organization's review meeting. Approximately 2,200 films will be restored as part of the National Film Heritage Mission. The titles were chosen by language-specific committees comprised of filmmakers, documentary filmmakers, film historians, producers, and others. Aparna Sen, Shriram Raghavan, Anjali Menon, and Vetrimaaran were among those who served on the committees.



Haryana Govt Launches 'E-Adhigam' Scheme To Distribute Tablets To Students :-

The Haryana government has launched its ambitious "e-Adhigam" scheme, which has distributed nearly three lakh tablets to government school students in Classes 10 and 12. These devices include pre-loaded content, personalised and adaptive learning software, and 2GB of free data. The government plans to give the device to five lakh students in grades 10-12. However, it stated that Class 11 students will receive them after passing the Class 10 board exams and qualifying for the following year. "From next year, all classes from 9-12 will be covered," said Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the launch of the Advance Digital Haryana Initiative of Government with Adaptive Modules (Adigham) scheme at Maharishi Dayanand University in Rohtak.



Delhi Govt Launched "Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana" :-

According to a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) official, the 'Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana' will provide free sewer connections to 25,000 households in East Delhi. These free connections will be provided in 12 colonies in Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad, with a budget of Rs 19 crore. According to the DJB, the households will be connected to the existing sewer network, which will transport waste to the Yamuna Vihar sewage treatment plant. The goal is to keep sewage from entering the Yamuna River. The decision was made at a

DJB board meeting presided over by Water Minister Satyendar Jain. The board also decided to set up 30 RO plants at JJ colonies to increase the drinking water supply. Each plant will provide around 50,000 litres of water per day. The supply will be free.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Launched Ladli Laxmi Scheme 2.0 :-

While launching the Ladli Laxmi scheme-2.0 in Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the state government will pay the entire fee for Ladli Laxmis if they enrol in medical, IIT, IIM, or any other institute. Ladli Laxmi Utsav will also be celebrated in MP from May 2 to May 12 every year. In order to fulfill the responsibility of the girl child from birth to her marriage, the government in MP has implemented Ladli Laxmi Yojana from 1st April 2007. In Madhya Pradesh, more than 42 lakh girls have been registered till April this year under Ladli Laxmi scheme.



SEBI Formed Advisory Committee For ESG-Related Matters :-

Sebi, the capital markets regulator, has formed an advisory committee to advise on ESG (environment, social, and governance) issues in the securities market. The committee will be led by Navneet Munot of HDFC Mutual Fund, according to a statement issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). Apart from Munot, the committee has experts, including R Mukundan, MD and CEO of Tata Chemicals; C Siva Kumar, executive director of NTPC, Amit Talgeri, chief risk officer at Axis Bank, Sharad Kalghtagi, ESG head Cipla; Amit Tandon founder and MD Institutional Investor Advisory Services; J N Gupta, founder and MD of Stakeholders Empowerment Services and Rama Patel, Director of Crisil Ratings.



Haryana Launched 'Chara-Bijae Yojana' For Fodder Cultivating Farmers :-

To encourage farmers to grow fodder and help gaushalas, which have been grappling with fodder shortage amid a rise in the stray cattle population the Haryana government launched the 'Chara-Bijae Yojana'. Under the scheme, farmers who have tied up with gaushalas, will be eligible to receive a financial aid of ₹10,000 per acre for up to 10 acres under fodder cultivation. Agriculture and farmers' welfare minister JP Dalal said, "The money will be transferred to the farmers' bank account through direct benefit transfer. The state government has been taking a number of steps in the

interest of farmers, and the 'Chara-Bijae Yojana' is another step in that direction. In April, ₹13.44 crore was distributed among 569 gaushalas in the state for purchasing fodder."



PMGKAY Scheme: PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Extended By Half A Year :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) will be extended until September 2022. Free foodgrain is distributed to those in need under the PMGKAY. "The strength of India lies in the power of every citizen of the country. To further strengthen this power, the government has decided to continue the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for six more months till September 2022. More than 80 crore people of the country will be able to take advantage of this as before," PM Modi stated this in a tweet. The decision was made following a meeting of the Union Cabinet, which was presided over by Prime Minister Modi.



Centre Announces Formation Of Cotton Council Of India :-

The Union Government has announced the establishment of the Cotton Council of India, which will be led by renowned veteran cottonman Suresh Bhai Kotak. It will have representation from Textiles, Agriculture, Commerce, and Finance Ministries along with Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Research Institute. The proposed council's first meeting is scheduled for the 28th of this month. The council will deliberate, discuss, and prepare a strong action plan to bring about tangible improvements in this field. The announcement was made during a meeting with cotton value chain stakeholders presided over by Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal. During this meeting, a variety of perspectives and suggestions were discussed in order to address the unprecedented price rise seen this season by softening cotton and yarn prices as soon as possible.



The BHARAT TAP Project Gets Unveiled At Plumbex India Exhibition :-

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas, launched the BHARAT TAP initiative at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition in New Delhi. This exhibition is for plumbing, water, and sanitation-related products and services. According to Shri Puri, this exhibition addresses a fundamental service in the development of the nation: water and sanitation. There can be no progress or growth without adequate

sanitation, which is foundational in the hierarchy of basic services that citizens expect. He went on to say that the Prime Minister's announcement that Swachhata was the

key to India's development caused a paradigm shift in the country's social development.

15: Science & Technology



L&T tie-up with IIT Bombay to develop Green Hydrogen Technology :-

To collaborate on research and development in the Green Hydrogen value chain Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has signed an agreement. "L&T has always been in the forefront to drive technological advancements and indigenisation in India across sectors. We are positioning to drive Green Hydrogen economy in India together with our partners," said S N Subrahmanyam, CEO and MD of L&T. According to the agreement, both institutions will contribute to the development of India's Green Hydrogen industry while developing technology in this field. The Central Government announced the Green Hydrogen policy in February 2022, with the goal of increasing production of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia to help the country become a global hub for the environmentally friendly version of the molecule.



IndiGo Becomes First Airline To Use Indigenous Navigation System GAGAN :-

IndiGo has become the country's first airline to land aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN. A statement issued on April 28 confirmed the news. According to an IndiGo statement, the flight used an ATR-72 plane and landed at the Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan on April 27 morning, using GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN), which was jointly developed by the Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The GAGAN has been designed to provide the additional accuracy, availability, and integrity required for users to rely on GPS for all phases of flight, from en route to approach, for all qualified airports within the GAGAN service volume.



Maharashtra Became India's 1st State To Develop Migration Tracking System App :-

The Maharashtra government has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers using individual unique identity numbers in a first-of-its-kind project in the country. The state government's women and child development (WCD) department launched it as a pilot project in six districts with a high tribal population, including Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Amravati, Jalna, Palghar, and Nandurbar, in November last year. The MTS project aims to ensure the continuity of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) such as nutrition supply, immunisation, and health check-ups, among other things, for migrant beneficiaries such as children aged up to 18 years, lactating mothers, and pregnant women registered with anganwadi centres.



New Space India Limited And OneWeb Signed Agreement For Satellite Launches :-

OneWeb, a Bharti group company, and New Space India Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization, have signed a satellite launch agreement. The first launch of New Space is anticipated for 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The launches will add to OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation of 428 satellites, representing 66% of the planned total fleet, in order to build a global network that will provide high-speed, low-latency connectivity. This launch contract follows a separate agreement announced in March 2022 between OneWeb and SpaceX to allow the company to resume satellite launches. OneWeb has already activated service with its network at the 50th parallel and above, as demand for the company's broadband connectivity services from a variety of sectors and markets continues to grow.



Cochin Shipyard To Build India's First Home Made Hydrogen-Fuelled Electric Vessel :-

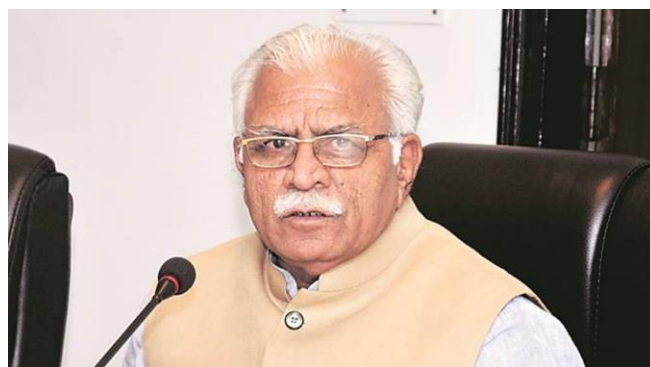
Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, announced that the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) will develop and build the first indigenous hydrogen-fuelled electric vessels, kicking off the country's efforts toward green shipping. Inaugurating a workshop on Green Shipping, Sonowal stated that the project will be carried out by the CSL in collaboration with Indian partners, and he revealed the government's

plan to build hydrogen-fueled electric vessels in accordance with the Global Maritime Green Transitions. He said "The CSL has partnered with KPIT Technologies Limited and Indian developers in the areas of hydrogen fuel cell, power train and Indian Register of Shipping for developing rules and regulation for such vessels,".



Hyderabad Established India's First-Ever Unique Kind Of Flow Chemistry Technology Hub :-

The Telangana government has established a one-of-a-kind flow chemistry technology hub (FCTH) at the Dr Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences in collaboration with pharma majors such as Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Laurus Labs (DRILS), as well as academia . According to a release from the Telangana government, the hub will provide hands-on training and promote scientific capability building to ensure greater incorporation of flow chemistry techniques in pharma R&D and greater adoption of continuous synthesis for manufacturing of active pharma ingredients (APIs). Telangana Industries Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, who inaugurated the hub, said it would enable India's pharma industry to make a paradigm shift toward the incorporation of modern approaches from R&D to manufacturing, as well as the migration to greener and more sustainable processes.



Haryana Launched 'Vehicle Movement Tracking System' Mobile App :-

Manohar Lal Khattar Chief Minister of Haryana has launched a Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app that will help in tracking vehicles carrying sand and other mining material. The app will be used at various checkpoints throughout Haryana, and vehicle details such as vehicle number, vehicle type, moving from, and moving to, as well as driver details such as name, driver mobile number, and driver licence number, will be entered into it. If the vehicle is to be moved between source and destination checkpoints, officials can mark the vehicle exit from the originating checkpoint as interim exit and the vehicle exit from the destination checkpoint as final exit. "All the travel history of the vehicle will be logged and can be viewed through the app at anytime. Only users whose mobile number is registered in the database will be authorized to login into it," the government said in a release.



ISRO Plans Mission To Venus By December 2024 :-

the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is now preparing a spacecraft to orbit Venus after sending missions to the Moon and Mars, in order to study what lies beneath the surface of the hottest planet in the Solar System as well as to unravel the mysteries hidden beneath the sulphuric acid clouds that surround it. ISRO Chairman S Somnath said during a day-long meeting on Venusian science that the Venus mission has been conceived, a project report has been completed, and funding has been identified, and he urged scientists to focus on high-impact outcomes. "Building and putting a mission on Venus is possible for India in a very short space of time, as the capability today exists with India," Somnath said in his inaugural address.



Green Satellite Propulsion Tested By Bellatrix Aerospace :-

Bellatrix Aerospace, based in Bengaluru, has tested an eco-friendly satellite propulsion system that offers a potential 20 percent increase in fuel efficiency for space satellites over hydrazine-dependent fuel systems. Bellatrix Aerospace co-founder Yashas Karanam said, "While all rocket fuels can be dangerous to handle without proper safety precautions, our proprietary green propellant has significantly reduced toxicity compared to hydrazine, making it safer to store and handle". The startup would soon move it toward commercialization, with the goal of turning it into a product by the following year. Human space flight

missions, according to the company, would be an ideal use case candidate for the green propellant.



LS Speaker Om Birla Launches One Of Its Kind 'Kalam Website' :-

The Kalam website, a literary initiative of the Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) to support and encourage vernacular literature, was launched by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The PKF is a non-profit trust based in Kolkata that is dedicated to socio-cultural welfare and humanitarian causes. The Kalam website seeks to popularise and provide a platform for veteran and young authors and poets to discuss their works and passion for vernacular literature. Kalam debuted in Patna and Jaipur in the summer of 2015. Since then, it has held over 550 sessions in 40 Indian cities and abroad. Along with scripting successful sessions that enrich the nation's literary heritage, the foundation is also the custodian of literary traditions in Hindi.



Mumbai Gets India's First EV Charging Station Powered By Bio-Gas :-

Aaditya Thackeray, the Maharashtra Environment Minister, has inaugurated the country's first organic waste-powered EV charging station on Keshavrao Khadye road in Mumbai, near Haji Ali. The station, a first of its kind, will produce 220 units of electricity from food waste collected in the surrounding area, primarily from bulk generators such as hotels and offices. This energy plant will now charge electric vehicles in addition to powering street lights. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) plans to install an organic waste-powered EV charging station in each of the city's 24 administrative wards. The project is a collaboration between the civic organisation and AeroCare Clean Energy.



PM Modi Unveils India's First 5G Test Bed, Estimated To Be Worth Rs 220 Crore :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the country's first 5G testbed, which will allow startups and industry players to test and validate their products locally, reducing reliance on foreign facilities. The testbed was built at a cost of about Rs 220 crore. The Prime Minister stated at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) silver jubilee celebrations that the 5G testbed is an important step toward self-reliance in the direction of critical and modern technologies. The 5G testbed has been developed as a multi-institute

collaborative project by eight institutes led by IIT Madras. In the absence of a 5G testbed, startups and other industry players were required to go abroad to test and validate their products for installation in a 5G network.



West Central Railway

WCR Develops Battery-Operated Dual-Mode Locomotive 'Navdoot' :-

After e-bikes, e-cars, and e-buses, the country's dream of an e-train is about to come true. West Central Railway has created the Navdoot, a battery-powered dual-mode locomotive. This engine operates in two modes: battery and electricity. It is currently being trialled during train shunting at Jabalpur, Mudwara, and other stations. This e-engine has a top speed of 30 kmph and can pull 18 coaches. It currently has 84 batteries and a capacity of 400 tonnes. Chief Public Relations Officer of West Central Railway Rahul Jaipuria said that this innovation has been performed by the Electric Department of New Katni Junction. This Dual Mode Locomotive has also received the Best Innovation Award from the Railway Board.



Engine Relight Test On The HANSA-NG Aircraft Successful :-

Design & Developed by CSIR-NAL, HANSA-NG 2 seater flying trainer Aircraft, has successfully completed in-flight engine relight test at DRDO's Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) facility, Challakere. Flight tests were conducted at an altitude of 7000-8000 feet at speeds ranging from 60 to 70 knots by Test Pilots from the Indian Air Force's Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) (IAF). The aircraft's in-flight engine relighting capability was demonstrated using a wind milling propeller and a starter assisted start. During these test flights, the aircraft handling characteristics and flight parameters were found to be normal. According to CSIR-NAL, the in-flight engine relight test is the most critical and important milestone toward DGCA certification of the aircraft.



Skyroot Aerospace Successfully Test Fires Its Rocket Engine :-

Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based space tech startup, has announced the successful completion of a full-length test-firing of its Vikram-1 rocket engine, the country's first privately designed and developed rocket. Vikram-1 is powered by three solid fuel stages. The burn time for each stage varies between 80 and 108 seconds.

The 'Kalam-100' engine, or third stage, of Vikram-1 produces a peak vacuum thrust of 100 kN (or around 10 tonnes) and has a burn time of 108 seconds. According to the startup, it is named after former President and rocket scientist APJ Abdul Kalam. "The stage has delivered excellent performance and this success gives great confidence for our other rocket stages planned to be tested soon," said Skyroot co-founder and CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana.



Dr. Jitendra Singh, Launches 'BioRRAP' Portal For Biotech Researchers :-

In the spirit of "One Nation, One Portal," Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the Single National Portal for Biotech Researchers and Start-ups. The "BioRRAP" Portal will serve all those seeking regulatory approval for biological research and development activity in the country, providing significant relief for "Ease of Science as well as Ease of Business." Dr. Jitendra Singh stated after the launch of the Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP) that India is poised to become a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub and will rank among the top five countries in the world by 2025.

16: Sports



Serbia Open Title: Andrey Rublev Defeated Novak Djokovic :-

Andrey Rublev won the Serbia Open, his third title of the season, by defeating Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-0. The second-seeded Russian player dug deep to prevent Djokovic from mounting another comeback and denying the top-ranked Serb his first title of 2022. Rublev, 24, looked fitter in their third set, which he won in 2 hours and 24 minutes. Djokovic, who is ten years older than Rublev, appeared shaken by his efforts to tie the match in the second set tiebreaker. Djokovic had already come back from a set down in each of his three matches at his home tournament, beating Laslo Djere, Miomir Kecmanovic, and Karen Khachanov en route to the final.



Asian Wrestling Championships 2022: India Won 17 medals :-

Indian wrestlers brought home 17 medals from the Asian Wrestling Championships in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. The show's star was Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who became the first Indian to win a hat-trick of gold medals at the continental event. Gourav Baliyan, who returned to the competition after missing it the previous year, won his second silver medal in the 79kg category. Barely 21, Gourav will be among the hopefuls for a World Championship medals as he competes in a non-Olympic weight category. The 17-medal haul was also higher than last year's 14-medal haul, but with only one gold in comparison to five in 2021, India fell to fifth place from third in the medals tally. Despite the disadvantage, it is important to remember that the competition level was much higher this year due to the relaxation of post-pandemic restrictions.



PV Sindhu won bronze at Asian Badminton Championships :-

P V Sindhu, a double Olympic medalist, finished her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after losing in three games to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi. The 26-year-old got off to a good start but couldn't maintain it, falling 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 to top

seed and world No. 2 Yamaguchi in the one-hour, six-minute match. This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament — she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition. The Hyderabad shuttler, who has two Super 300 titles from the Syed Modi International and the Swiss Open, easily won the first game in 16 minutes. In the second game, the fourth-seeded Sindhu was given a point penalty for taking too long between points, which sparked an argument with the referee.



Real Madrid Clinch 35th Spanish League Title :-

Real Madrid won their 35th Spanish league title with four games to spare thanks to a 4-0 home win over Espanyol, which was fueled by two goals from Rodrygo. With only one point needed to clinch the trophy, Madrid scored twice in the first half at the Santiago Bernabeu, followed by goals from Marco Asensio and Karim Benzema. With four games remaining, Madrid has a 17-point lead over second-placed Sevilla. Barcelona has a game in hand but is trailing by 18 points. Madrid winning a league they had dominated for months was unsurprising given their dominance since November, but dips in form from Barcelona and Sevilla offered the possibility of an earlier coronation than expected.



Kerala Beat West Bengal To Lift Their Seventh Santosh Trophy Title :-

In football, Kerala defeated West Bengal 5-4 in a penalty shootout at Malappuram's Payyanad Stadium to win the Santosh Trophy National Tournament for the seventh time. In a thrilling final that kept the 35,000 or so spectators on suspense, both teams ended the 90-minute match with a goalless draw, forcing the match into extra time. In a tense match, the teams were tied 1-1 after extra time. In extra time, two fantastic headers from Dilip Orwan of West Bengal and Muhammed Safnad of Kerala sent the game to penalties. Kerala converted all of their shots in the tie-breaker while Bengal's Sajal Bag missed his, resulting in the hosts winning the championship. This is the first win for Kerala on home soil since 1993.



Harshada Sharad Garud Won Gold Medal At IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championship :-

Harshada Sharad Garud became India's first gold medalist in weightlifting at the IWF Junior World Championships in Heraklion, Greece. Harshada, 18, won the gold medal in the women's 45 kg category at the IWF Junior World Championship 2022 with a total effort of 153 kg (70kg + 82kg). Her victory also gave India a lead on the first day of the competition. From May 2 to May 10, 2022, Heraklion, Greece hosted the 2022 Junior Weightlifting Championships. Harshada Sharad Garud, the first Indian weightlifter to win a gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championship 2022, also won the under-17 girls' title at the 2020 Khelo India Youth Games.



24th Deaflympics: Dhanush Srikanth Won Gold In Men's 10m Air Rifle :-

Dhanush Srikanth became India's first gold medalist in the Deaflympics. After shooting a world-record score for the hearing impaired in the final, the Hyderabad shooter won the yellow metal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil. Dhanush shot 247.5 in the final, while Kim Woo Rim of Korea took silver with a score of 246.6. Dhanush's teammate Shourya Saini took bronze with a score of 224.3. Dhanush, 19, broke German shooter Colin Muller's 2019 record of 243.2. In Hyderabad, he attends Gagan Narang's Gun For Glory Academy. Dhanush, the first hearing-impaired shooter to be selected for the Indian national team, competed in a hearing-impaired athletes event for the first time in 2019.



Tokyo Olympian Discus Thrower Kamalpreet Kaur Provisionally Suspended :-

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has provisionally suspended India's star Olympian, Kamalpreet Kaur, who reached the finals of the women's discus throw event at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, after testing positive for a banned drug. The AIU announced on Twitter that India's Kamalpreet Kaur has been provisionally suspended for the Presence/Use of a Prohibited Substance (Stanozolol), a violation of World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules. Last year, Kamalpreet became the first Indian to throw the discus over 65 metres. She placed sixth in the women's discus throw final at the Tokyo Olympics 2020, with a best throw of 63.70m. The 26-year-old also holds a national record, having thrown 66.59m at the Indian Grand Prix.



Max Verstappen Won Miami Grand Prix 2022 :-

Red Bull's reigning champion Max Verstappen won the first-ever Miami Grand Prix after sprinting past Charles Leclerc who started at the pole position. Right at the start, he took P2 off Carlos Sainz into Turn 1 and began closing the gap between him and Leclerc. The Lap 47 restart saw Verstappen lead away but struggle to build up a gap to Leclerc. It was equally difficult for Sainz, who was being hounded by medium-shod Sergio Perez for the final podium place. The 24-year-old Dutchman took the lead from the pole-sitting Monegasque driver on the opening lap and remained in control throughout a largely processional contest. Carlos Sainz finished third in the second Ferrari after holding off a late charge from Sergio Perez.



ISSF Junior World Cup: Esha Singh And Saurabh Chaudhary Won Gold In Mixed Team Pistol Even :-

Esha Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary pistol pairs of India won gold in the mixed team pistol at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. Palak and Sarabjot Singh of India took silver after losing to Esha and Saurabh 16-12 in the gold medal match. Ramita and Paarth Makhija also took silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team competition, losing 13-17 to the Polish duo of Julia Piotrowska and Wiktor Sajdak but still bringing home three medals for the day. Esha and Saurabh advanced after finishing first and second in a 38-field qualification round of 60 shots, with scores of 578 and 575, respectively.



Carlos Alcaraz Won The Men's Singles Title At The Madrid Open Title 2022 :-

After defeating defending champion Alexander Zverev (Germany) Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) has won the 2022 Madrid Open men's singles title. To reach the final, Alcaraz defeated Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic (world No.1). Alcaraz won his second Masters 1000 title of the year, following his victory in Miami, and his fourth overall. The Olympic gold medallist Zverev looked a pale shadow of his self against a player who had beaten 21-time grand slam champion Rafael Nadal in the quarter-final and defeated World No.1 Novak Djokovic in a hard-fought semi-final. With this win, Alcaraz will climb to the number six spot in the ATP men's singles ranking.



South Korea Won The Uber Cup 2022 :-

Korea defeated defending champions China in a thrilling final at the Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand, to win their second Uber Cup title. Korea fought back from

behind twice to deny China a record-extending 16th title in the famous team tournament in a tie that lasted close to 90 minutes apiece. In the deciding singles match, Korea's 46th-ranked Sim Yu-jin faced China's 15th-ranked Wang Zhiyi, with the final knotted at 2-2. Sim, who turned 23, beat Wang 28-26, 18-21, 21-8 in an hour and 28-minute match. After a surprising run in Bangkok, Korea won the Uber Cup for the first time in 12 years. The Asian giants beat India 5-0 to win their group, then defeated Denmark and Japan 3-0 in the quarter-finals and semi-finals, respectively.



A Franchise In UAE Based T20 League Bought By Adani Group :-

An Adani group subsidiary, Adani Sportsline, has acquired the rights to own and operate a franchise in the six-team UAE T20 League. With this, it becomes the fourth Indian group to own teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL)-style tournament, following Reliance Industries (RIL), GMR group, and Capri Global, a non-banking financial company based in Mumbai. The UAE T20 League franchise rights were purchased by RIL subsidiary Reliance Strategic Business Ventures in November 2021, while GMR and Capri Global acquired the team rights in February and March, respectively. RIL owns the Mumbai Indians IPL franchise, while GMR co-owns Delhi Capitals. Adani will be the fifth franchise owner of the UAE T20 league, marking its first major foray into cricket overseas.



LSG Now Have The Highest Opening Partnership In IPL History :-

Quinton de Kock and KL Rahul of the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) recorded the highest first-wicket partnership in Indian Premier League history. This is the first time in IPL history that an opening partnership has lasted 20 overs after a team batted first. Quinton de Kock hit an unbeaten 140 off 70 balls and KL Rahul smashed 68 not out to set a new IPL record with their 210-run stand in 20 overs against Kolkata Knight Riders. This is now the IPL's second most unbeaten partnership. The record for the highest opening partnership in the Indian Premier League was held by Jonny Bairstow and David Warner, who had added 185 for Sunrisers Hyderabad against Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2019.



Nikhat Zareen Won Gold At Women's World Boxing Championships :-

Nikhata Zareen of India has won the Women's World Boxing Championships in Turkey, becoming only the fifth Indian woman to do so. In the championship's flyweight division, the boxer defeated Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas 5-0. Zareen, 25, is from Nizamabad, a city in the southern Indian state of Telangana. She previously held the title of junior youth world champion. This is India's first gold medal at the championship since Olympic boxer Mary Kom triumphed here in 2018. Kom has won the tournament six times in a row. Boxers Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, and Lekha KC are among the other Indian women to have won gold.



Odisha Won The 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship Title :-

Odisha won the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Karnataka in the competition's final. Karnataka and Odisha battled it out in the championship game. Both teams got off to a good start, creating several scoring chances. However, strong defensive performances from both teams ensured that the game went into halftime with a score of 0-0. Punam Barla opened the scoring in the third quarter as Odisha took the lead. Odisha won the championship with a 2-0 victory over Karnataka, thanks to a late goal by Ashim Kanchan Barla.



UEFA Europa Football League Title Won By Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt :-

Eintracht Frankfurt a German club won their first European trophy in 42 years after defeating Rangers on penalties 5-4 in Seville, Spain. Kevin Trapp, the goalkeeper, made a save at the end of extra time and another in the shootout to help Frankfurt win on penalties 5-4. Rangers were also attempting to win their first European title since the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972. Eintracht Frankfurt's Kevin Trapp was named Man of the Match. In the shootout, goalkeeper Kevin Trapp made a save at the end of extra time to help Frankfurt win 5-4 on penalties. The victory also secures Frankfurt's first appearance in the Champions League next season.



India Won Thomas Cup Title :-

In Bangkok India won its first Thomas Cup title, defeating 14-time champion Indonesia 3-0. Lakshya Sen of India defeated Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the first men's singles to give India a 1-0 lead. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty saved four match points before defeating Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo 18-21, 23-21, 21-19 in the first doubles game, extending India's lead to 2-0. In the second men's singles match, Kidambi Srikanth defeated Jonatan Christie 21-15, 23-21 in straight games to seal India's historic victory. India had previously reached the Thomas Cup semifinals in 1952, 1955, and 1979.



Manchester City Won 2021-22 Premier League Football Championship:-

Manchester City won their sixth Premier League title in 11 seasons, coming from behind three times in the final five minutes to beat Aston Villa 3-2 and avoid being beaten by challenger Liverpool. Manchester City trailed Aston Villa 2-0 until Ikey Gündoan started the comeback in the 76th minute. Rodri equalised two minutes later, and Gündoan put City ahead in the 81st minute. Even when City was losing, it was still on course to defend the

title because Liverpool was only drawing 1-1 with Wolverhampton. However, Mohamed Salah put the second-place side ahead in the 84th minute, which would have put Liverpool first had City not mounted its comeback at the Etihad Stadium. Andy Robertson then sealed Liverpool's 3-1 win.



Haryana Won The Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's National Championship :-

Hockey Haryana won the Hockey India sub-junior women's national championship 2022 after defeating Hockey Jharkhand in the final in Imphal 2-0. Earlier in the day, Uttar Pradesh Hockey defeated Madhya Pradesh Hockey 3-0 to finish the tournament in third place. Riya and Sejal each scored a goal to help Hockey Haryana successfully defend their title in a thrilling 2-0 victory. "Jharkhand are a very strong side. We went with a defensive strategy today and just tried to keep the ball as much as we can. I am really happy that the players showed great character, maintained the structure and just stuck to their plans throughout the game," In a statement, Haryana coach Azad Singh Malik said.

17: State



Village Palli Became India’s 1st Carbon-Neutral Panchayat In J&K :-

Palli, a nondescript hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Samba, became the country's first 'carbon neutral panchayat,' with Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicating to the nation a 500 KV solar plant, which was installed in a record time of nearly three weeks. Palli, according to the prime minister, has paved the way for the country by becoming carbon neutral. According to officials, 1,500 solar panels installed over a total area of 6,408 square metres will provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat as part of the central government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme. The project was completed at a cost of Rs 2.75 crore in a record time, officials said. The electricity generated will be distributed to the village, having a daily requirement of 2,000 units, through the local power grid station.



India’s First Amrit Sarovar Established In UP’s Rampur :-

The first 'Amrit Sarovar' in India has been completed in Rampur's Gram Panchayat Patwai, thanks to the efforts of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 75 water bodies will be developed and rejuvenated in each district under the Amrit Sarovar initiative. In just a few weeks, a pond in Rampur was cleaned and revitalised. This pond is now a major tourist attraction in the surrounding rural area. Seventy-five ponds in Rampur were chosen to become Amrit Sarovar. The work on the pond of village panchayat Patwai of development block Shahbad was completed out of the selected ponds. The construction of the largest pond (1.67 hectare) in Gram Panchayat Singan Kheda has also begun.



Jharkhand’s Jamtara Became Country’s 1st District With Library In Every Village :-

Jamtara, Jharkhand, has become the country's only district with community libraries in all gramme panchayats. This district, which has a population of about eight lakh people, has 118 gramme panchayats divided into six blocks, and each panchayat has a well-equipped

library open to students from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Career counselling and motivational classes are also provided at no cost. IAS and IPS officers may also visit these libraries to assist students. Everyone is welcome to visit these innovative sites. The majority of these libraries, the details of which, including GPS location, photographs, and contact information, are available on the district's official website, were established around two years ago.



Maharashtra Cabinet Approved First-Of-Its-Kind 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' :-

Maharashtra has decided to establish a gene bank project in order to conserve native and endangered animals, crops, marine, and biological species. The 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' will focus on seven themes: marine, crop, veterinary, freshwater, grassland biodiversity, forest right areas protection and management, and forest regeneration. It will draw on indigenous knowledge resources, work on documenting these species and local community knowledge, and preserve genetic and molecular samples. A total of 172.39 crore will be spent on these seven priority areas over the next five years. The state cabinet has approved the project, which was mentioned by deputy chief minister and finance minister Ajit Pawar in his budget speech for 2022-23.



UP's Agra Becomes First City To Have Vacuum-Based Sewer Systems :-

Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal, has become the first in the country to have vacuum-based sewers. These vacuum cleaners will be used in public areas. According to Agra Smart City officials, the corporation has connected 240 such houses near the Taj Mahal to vacuum-based sewer systems in areas where conventional sewer systems cannot be used. "Being in a 'low-lying' area, these homes are connected to a vacuum-based sewer. About 112 chambers have been made in this area, in which the sensor is also installed. The system of the vacuum sewer will automatically issue an alert if there is a choke or any other problem," they added. If the Agra trial is successful, the vacuum sewer will be used in the Kochi Municipal Corporation as well.



CM Nitish Kumar Inaugurated Nation's First Ethanol Plant In Purnia, Bihar :-

Nitish Kumar, the state's chief minister, has inaugurated the country's first greenfield grain-based ethanol plant in Ganeshpur, near Parora in Purnia district. He stated that ethanol production would help lower the cost of gasoline while also creating new job opportunities in the state. The Rs 105-crore plant built by a private investor is the first built since the Union government approved Bihar's ethanol production and promotion policy-2021. The 15-acre plant was built with cutting-edge technology and zero waste discharge. According to an industry department official, it would buy 130 tonnes of rice husk and 145-150 tonnes of maize or rice from farmers every day.

Therefore, the loan will be disbursed in the name of the inmate, it will be issued to designated family members. In the initial phase, a loan of Rs 50,000 will be given at a 7 per cent interest rate.



Telangana Govt Extends Insurance Coverage Under 'Nethanna Bima' Scheme :-

The Telangana state government has announced that the 'Nethanna Bima' (Weaver's Insurance) Scheme will now cover handloom and power loom weavers. The State Government has issued orders to extend insurance coverage of 5 lakh rupees under the Insurance Scheme to weavers on par with farmers insurance scheme. Over 29 crore rupees have been allocated for the scheme's implementation this year. The Cabinet Sub Committee proposed that in the State the scheme will now cover over 55 thousand handloom, power loom, and ancillary weavers. Now weavers between the ages of 18 and 59 will be covered by the insurance.



Maharashtra's 'Jivhala' Scheme To Offer Credit To Jail Inmates :-

The Maharashtra Department of Prisons has launched a loan programme for inmates serving time in state prisons. The Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank is offering the Jivhala credit scheme. The pilot began with prisoners at Pune's Yerawada Central Jail and will be gradually expanded to nearly 60 prisons across the state. According to bank and prison officials, this is likely India's first credit scheme for prisoners. Existing inmate loan initiatives are for rehabilitation after their prison terms are completed. According to officials, the majority of the inmates are sole breadwinners, and their incarceration has left their families without an income source.



UP Villages To Get Free High-Speed Internet Connectivity:-

As part of an effort to develop 'Smart Villages' across the state every gramme panchayat in the state will soon have access to high-speed internet services, paving the way for free connectivity for rural residents . The state government issued an order directing the Panchayati Raj department to work on providing free internet access to residents within a 50-meter radius of each gramme panchayat's gramme sachivalaya office. This will be the government's first initiative to provide free internet access in rural areas of the state. Additional chief secretary (Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh said that a similar proposal has been mooted for zila panchayat offices, located in all district headquarters, where free WiFi will be made available in a radius of 50 m around the building.



Exide And Leclanché's Joint Venture Nexcharge Begins Production In Gujarat :-

Nexcharge, a joint venture between Exide Industries Limited in India and Leclanché SA in Switzerland, has announced the opening of its new manufacturing plant in Prantij, Gujarat. The company's new state-of-the-art, fully automated manufacturing facility is claimed to be the largest in India for the production of lithium-ion battery packs and modules, spanning 6,10,098 square feet. According to the company, it has invested more than Rs 250 crore in this manufacturing unit. Six fully automated assembly lines and testing labs with a total installed capacity of 1.5 GWh are available at the facility. It will serve energy storage systems for India's electric vehicle market and grid-based applications, as well as a

diverse segment of transportation and utility-related industries.



Manipur's Poumai Naga Areas Declared 'Drug Free Zone' :-

The Poumai Naga community has declared Poumai areas in the state as "drug free zone," giving an impetus to chief minister N Biren Singh's initiative on "War on Drugs". On April 28 during the Poumai general body meeting a resolution to this effect and against poppy plantation was made. Paomai is the second largest Naga tribe in Manipur predominantly settled in Senapati district. Talking to reporters, the CM appreciated the Poumai tribe for the resolution and declaration and further commended saying it is quite encouraging as well as supportive of the government's war against drugs. He appealed to all communities and tribes to join the movement and reiterated his stand that there will be no compromise on the illegal drug issue .



New Electoral Map Released For Jammu And Kashmir :-

A three-member Delimitation Commission redrawing the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir has earmarked 47 Assembly seats for the Kashmir division and 43 for Jammu in its final order submitted just a day before its two-year tenure was to end. After the panel, led by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, signed the final order awarding Jammu six additional seats and Kashmir one more, a gazette notification was issued. Jammu had 37 Assembly constituencies and Kashmir had 46 prior to the restructuring, which brings the total number of Assembly seats in the Union Territory to 90. The Commission, which was set up in March 2020 and entrusted with the work of delimiting Assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory on the basis of the 2011 Census.

request to withdraw Rs 39,000 crore in National Pension Scheme benefits accrued since 2004. The Rajasthan government announced plans to withdraw funds accrued since 2004 and transfer them to the general provident fund.



Manik Saha Named As New Chief Minister Of Tripura :-

The BJP's state unit party chief Manik Saha, was sworn in as Tripura's new chief minister a day after Biplab Deb resigned. Manik Saha was sworn in as Tripura's 12th Chief Minister after incumbent Biplab Kumar Deb resigned ahead of the state Assembly elections. After resigning as Chief Minister, Biplab Deb, also a former state BJP President, stated that he resigned in the interest of the party and in light of the upcoming Assembly elections. Elections to the 60-member Tripura Assembly are scheduled for January-February of next year. Biplab Deb took the oath as the first Chief Minister of the BJP in Tripura in 2018, ending the CPI's 25-year rule in the state.



State Of Chhattisgarh To Reinstate An Old Pension Scheme :-

According to the report, Chhattisgarh has become the first state in the country to restore the old pension scheme in order to provide retired employees with guaranteed income. The state government has submitted a proposal to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to withdraw Rs 17,000 crore from the National Pension Scheme that has accrued since November 2004. The government issued a notification stating that the old pension scheme will be phased out beginning April 1, 2022. A similar request from the Rajasthan government was turned down. The Centre had turned down the Rajasthan government's

Ramgarh Vishdhari Notified As India's 52nd Tiger Reserve :-

The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary, located in Rajasthan, is a newly designated tiger reserve. With this new addition, India now has 52 tiger reserves in total. Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary is situated between Rajasthan's well-known Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve. The region is a vital tiger corridor. The new tiger reserve is Rajasthan's fourth. Ranthambore, Sariska, and Mukundra are the other three. When an area gets notified as a wildlife reserve, it means the area's biodiversity is protected by law. It is a very good move for nature and the region in general. The government is also in the process of boosting ecotourism and development in the area.



Ashwini Vaishnaw Opened NIELIT Center In Leh, Ladakh :-

Union Cabinet Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, virtually inaugurated the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Centre Leh, Extension Centre Kargil, and IT Enabled Incubation Centre for Handicraft and Handloom Sector. The inauguration ceremony was held at the NIELIT Campus in Leh. While inaugurating the NIELIT Centres in Leh and Kargil, as well as the Incubation Centre in Leh, Union Minister Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that since the repeal of Article 370 and the formation of new UTs, the path of development in this area has opened up vastly. The Ministry of Electronics

and Information Technology will immediately approve any proposal related to IT Education, Training, and Incubation for the development of the UT of Ladakh.



Madam Tussaud Museum To Start In Noida Next Month :-

The renowned Madame Tussauds wax museum, which closed its doors in Connaught Place's Regal Building in 2020, is set to reopen next month. The international attraction will now be housed on the 4th floor of DLF Mall of India, Noida, covering an area of 16,000 sq ft. "The project is under construction and is scheduled to open in the month of June for the public," said a spokesperson for Merlin Entertainments India, the venture's holding company. The opening attractions will include nearly 50 celebrity and superstar figures from five distinct zones: History and Leaders, Sports, Music, Bollywood, Hollywood & Film & Television. According to the company, the museum will continue to add new figures of Indian and global stars based on public demand.



World Bank Sanctioned USD 350 Million For SRESTHA-G Project To Gujarat :-

The World Bank has approved a 350 million dollar loan for the Gujarat Systems Reform Endeavors for Transformed Health Achievement -SRESTHA-G project. According to official sources, the SRESTHA-G project will cost \$500 million, with the World Bank contributing \$350 million. The project will transform key health-care delivery systems in the state. According to the official release, the programme will focus on four key outcome areas to improve the quality, equity, and comprehensiveness of primary healthcare, adolescent girl services, and disease surveillance system capacity.



Rs 1,500 Per Acre Incentive For Farmers Approved By Punjab Cabinet :-

The Punjab Cabinet approved a Rs 1,500 per acre incentive for farmers who sow paddy using the direct seeding of rice technique. A total of Rs 450 crore has been set aside to provide farmers with incentives to promote less water-intensive and cost-effective DSR (Direct Seeding of Rice) technology. The incentive scheme was approved by the Cabinet in a meeting presided over by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Mann announced this incentive to combat the state's depleting ground water table last month. According to a spokesperson for the chief minister's office, the incentive will encourage farmers to adopt this new irrigation

technique, which improves percolation, reduces reliance on farm labour, and improves soil health.



Kerala To Bring India's First State-Owned OTT Platform 'Cspace':-

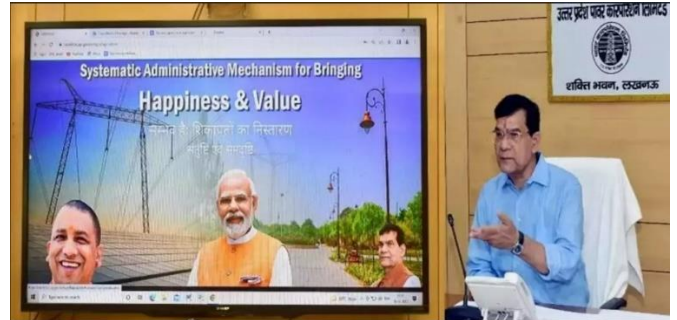
Kerala will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform, CSpace, in a first in the country, on November 1st, offering film fans a selection of movies, short films, and documentaries. Through video conferencing at a function, Minister for Cultural Affairs Saji Cheriyan revealed the name of the OTT platform, CSpace, which is an initiative of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) on behalf of the state government. The event was presided over by KSFDC chairman Shaji N Karun. CSpace's launch, which will include several unique features, will coincide with the state's formation day on November 1. Noting that this was a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, Cheriyan said the launch of the state-owned OTT will mark a new beginning and will considerably help in the growth of Malayalam cinema.



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann Launched 'Lok Milni' Scheme For Redressal Of Public Complaints :-

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has launched his government's flagship 'lok milni' (public interaction) programme in Chandigarh to address people's grievances on the spot. "This is a humble step of my government to make sure that we facilitate the people for resolving their long pending administrative issues," the chief minister said at the program's launch here at Punjab Bhawan. According to the CM, the program's goal is to provide a single point of contact for people to file complaints. "The top brass of my government will accompany me during the 'lok milni' to ensure that the matters flagged by people are immediately resolved on the spot," the CM stated.

President Marcos Troyjo stated, "IRO expands our on-the-ground presence, contributing to project preparation and implementation."



UP Launches 'Sambhav' Portal For Disposal Of Public Grievances Related To Energy :-

A K Sharma, the minister for urban development and energy in Uttar Pradesh, has launched an ICT-based portal for his department called SAMBHAV. The platform was established in order to "effectively resolve public grievances and monitor public programmes and schemes." "SAMBHAV portal has been started to monitor public grievances, programs, schemes, projects and policies of Urban Development and Energy Departments of Uttar Pradesh government effectively and transparently," according to an official release. The Systematic Administration Mechanism for Brining Happiness and Value (SAMBHAV) portal is described as a multi-modal platform that has been launched to quickly and effectively resolve public grievances.



In GIFT City, New Development Bank Opened A Regional Office:-

The BRICS countries' New Development Bank (NDB) has announced plans to open a regional office in India at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) to address the country's infrastructure and sustainable development needs. The Indian Regional Office will focus on project origination, including initial project preparation and technical assistance, pipeline development, project implementation and monitoring, and regional portfolio management, according to a press release from the NDB. The Indian Regional Office (IRO) will play an important role in increasing NDB's engagement with borrowers and stakeholders. NDB

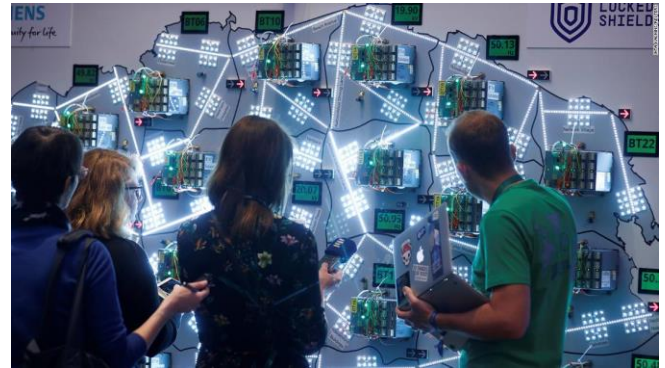


Jammu & Kashmir's First National Film Festival :-

The Jammu and Kashmir Department of Information and Public Relations has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Film Development Corporation Limited for the upcoming first Jammu and Kashmir's National Film Festival. The MoU was signed in the presence of Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, by Akshay Labroo, Director,

Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K, and D. Ramakrishnan, General Manager, NFDC. The mega event, which is set to take place from the 15th to the 20th of June, is being organised in collaboration by the National Film Development Corporation Limited and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, J&K.

18: Summits & Conferences



India Will Host The 21st World Congress Of Accountants :-

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will host the 21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA), the world's largest gathering of accountants, for the first time in its 118-year history, according to ICAI president Debashis Mitra. After outbidding France, the event will be held from November 18 to 21. Approximately 6000 top accountants from 130 countries will physically participate in the programme. According to him, the event will take place at the newly built Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. "It is a proud moment for ICAI that it has been able to host the World Congress for the first time in 118 years of its existence. We were successful in outbidding France in this round" Mitra stated.

Estonia hosts the world's largest cyber exercise :-

Locked Shields 2022, the world's largest and most complex annual international live-fire cyber defence exercise, is being held in Tallinn, Estonia, by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, abbreviated as CCDCOE. This year's exercise is especially significant because it takes place in the midst of a rising threat of cyber-attacks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The exercise allows for the practise of crisis cooperation between civilian and military units, as well as public and private sectors, because in the event of a large-scale cyber-attack, these tactical and strategic decision-makers must collaborate. The CCDCOE is organising the exercise with the help of NATO, Siemens, Microsoft, Tallinn University of Technology, and other partners.



IAF Organizes National Level Logistics Seminar 'LOGISEM VAYU – 2022' :-

Air Chief Marshal Vivek Chaudhari, Chief of Air Staff, has inaugurated the logistics seminar LOGISEM VAYU-2022 in New Delhi. Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari delivered the inaugural address during the seminar, which included the Indian Air Force's logistics management roadmap. The Chief of the Air Staff directed that the current supply chain management look ahead with the goal of improving logistics capabilities and developing a focused approach to indigenisation of critical components in order to achieve self-reliance in defence. During the seminar, a document on IAF logistics philosophy titled 'Tenets of Logistics' and a book on IAF logistics history titled 'Footprints in Sands of Time' were released.



PM Modi Addressed The Association With Canada At Divulge Of Sardar Patel Statue :-

On the occasion of the inauguration of Sardar Patel's statue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a virtual address to the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre in Ontario, Canada. According to the Prime Minister, India does not seek its own advancement at the expense of others. The Prime Minister elaborated on the depth of Indian ethos and values in the diaspora, saying that Indians can live anywhere in the world, but their Indianness and loyalty to the country never fades. He stated that Indians work with complete dedication and integrity for their home country, carrying their democratic values and sense of duty with them. He stated that India is more than just a country; it is also an idea and a culture.



Prime Minister Modi Addresses The JITO Connect 2022 Launching Session :-

On May 6, 2022, at 10:30 a.m Prime Minister Narendra Modi has address the inaugural session of the Jain International Trade Organization's 'JITO Connect 2022' via video conferencing . The Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) is a global organisation that connects Jains all over the world. JITO Connect is an endeavour to help business and industry by providing an avenue for mutual networking and personal interactions, the PMO stated. 'JITO Connect 2022' is a three-day event being organized at Gangadham Annex, Pune from May 6 to 8 and has encompass multiple sessions on diverse issues relating to business and economy.



‘Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022’ inaugurated by Minister Narayan Rane :-

As part of the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" Union Minister for MSME Shri Narayan Rane and Minister of State for MSME Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, along with other State Ministers and senior officials, launched the "Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022" in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Shri Rane, speaking on the occasion, emphasised the importance of developing new products and new applications for coir through product development, product diversification, and the adoption of new technologies. According to the Minister, coir has enormous potential and can play an important role in increasing exports and increasing MSME's share of the country's GDP. He added that coir is a good example of 'waste to wealth', which provides a sustainable solution, as it is eco-friendly and helps conservation of water and soil.



Ministry Of Tourism Took Part In The Arabian Travel Market, Dubai-2022 :-

Showcasing India's rich and diverse tourism potential and providing a platform for tourism stakeholders to showcase various tourism destinations and products, including niche products the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, participated in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), Dubai -2022, which was held from the 9th to the 12th of May, 2022. It is also intended to promote India as a "Must See, Must Visit" destination. The India Pavilion at the Mart promoted India as a "365 Days Destination," a year-round multifaceted tourist destination offering Culture, Adventure, Cruise, Golf, MICE, luxury, wildlife, wellness, and medical tourism, among other things. India Reopening as a theme has been amplified during the mart with the 'Namaste Campaign' to welcome International Travellers showcasing must-visit destinations of India.



India Elected As New Chair Of The Association Of Asian Election Authorities For 2022-24 :-

The Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) has unanimously elected India as its new Chair for the period 2022-2024. The decision was made at the recently concluded Executive Board and General Assembly meeting in Manila, Philippines on May 7, 2022. The current chair of AAEA was the Commission on Elections in Manila. The Election Commission of India sent a three-member delegation to the Executive Board meeting in Manila, led by Deputy Election Commissioner Nitesh Vyas and including Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manipur, Rajesh Agrawal, and CEO Rajasthan, Praveen Gupta. They presented the Executive Board with the work plan for

2022-23 as well as futuristic activities for 2023-24. Further, they also presented on 'Gender Issues in Elections' which highlighted various interventions by India to break socio-political barriers in electoral and political processes for inclusive and participative elections.



In Bharuch, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Addresses 'Utkarsh Samaroh' :-

According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi "Hundred per cent saturation of government schemes ends discrimination and need for a recommendation to get the benefits. It also puts an end to the appeasement politics." Modi was speaking via video conference to "Utkarsh Samaroh" in Gujarat's Bharuch to commemorate the district's 100% saturation of four key state government schemes that will help provide timely financial assistance to those in need. The district administration's "Utkarsh Initiative," which ran from January 1 to March 31 this year, aimed to ensure complete coverage of schemes providing assistance to widows, the elderly, and the destitute.



Prime Minister attended the 2nd Global COVID-19 Virtual Summit :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a reform of the World Health Organization and a review of its vaccine approval processes a week after the government refuted the WHO's figures for deaths during the Covid pandemic. Mr. Modi also called for the World Trade Organization to be more "flexible" on the issue of patent waivers, where a joint India-South Africa proposal made in 2020 has yet to be adopted, speaking at the second global Covid summit co-hosted by the United States, which was virtually addressed by US President Joseph Biden and a number of other leaders including from the African Union, European Union, Canada, Germany, South Africa, Japan, and South Korea.



National Startup Advisory Council's 4th Meeting, Chaired By Piyush Goyal :-

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, presided over the 4th meeting of the National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister pledged the government's continued support for the development of the startup ecosystem. He praised the work of NSAC members and urged them to focus on tier 2 and tier 3 cities, where limited amount of venture capital investment is available. He also emphasised the importance of capacity building and raising awareness about various government initiatives to promote startups in such cities.

The Council deliberated on critical startup ecosystem issues such as protecting startup ownership with original promoters, incorporating in India, listing in India, developing innovation hubs, and so on.

Nirmala Sitharaman Chairs The 7th Annual Meeting Of Board Of Governors Of NDB :-

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and India's Governor for the New Development Bank (NDB), presided over the 7th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of NDB via video-conference in New Delhi. Governors/Alternate Governors from Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa, and newly admitted members Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates also attended the meeting (UAE). Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's NDB Annual Meeting, which was hosted/chaired by India, was held virtually. The Annual Meeting theme this year was "NDB: Optimising Development Impact," which is especially important and relevant in the current global economic scenario. In her statement, the Finance Minister emphasised the importance of multilateralism and the spirit of global cooperation for economic recovery.



Piyush Goyal Lead India At The World Economic Forum (WEF) 2022 :-

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in

Davos, from May 22 to May 26. For the first time since January 2020, the annual meeting of the WEF, a Geneva-based international organisation working on a variety of global issues, was held in person. Given the pandemic situation, the event took place virtually last year. The WEF, which was supposed to take place earlier this year, was pushed back to May due to the spread of the Omicron variant. Mansukhlal Mandaviya, minister of health and family welfare, chemicals and fertilisers, and Hardeep Singh Puri, minister of petroleum and natural gas, housing and urban affairs, led the Indian delegation.



North East Research Conclave 2022 Inaugurated By Dharmendra Pradhan :-

On May 20, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati hosted the three-day North East Research Conclave (NERC) 2022. The IIT Guwahati NERC 2022 was inaugurated by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The research conclave was held on the IIT Guwahati campus between May 20 and 22, in collaboration with the Science, Technology, and Climate Change Department and the Department of Education, Government of Assam. Apart from Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, and other dignitaries attended the inauguration, according to an IIT Guwahati statement.



Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister Of Health, Addresses At The 75th World Health Assembly In Geneva :-

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, exhorted India's commitment to building a more resilient global health security architecture in a historic address at the 75th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva at WHO HQ. "As highlighted by India's Prime Minister, there is a need to build a resilient global supply chain to enable equitable access to vaccines and medicines, streamlining WHO's approval process for vaccines and therapeutics and strengthen WHO to build a more resilient global health security architecture" the Union Minister said underscoring the need to strengthen WHO. India, as a responsible member of the global community, is prepared to play a critical role in these efforts, he added.

SECTION 2



Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. The world's largest 3-wheeler EV-making plant will be established in which of the following state?

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

2. Which country's Prime Minister, Patrick Achi, was re-appointed?

- A) Burkina Faso
- B) Ivory Coast
- C) Guinea
- D) Hungary

3. A new payment system named 'HELLO' was registered by which of the following country's Central Bank?

- A) Russia
- B) Germany
- C) France
- D) Canada

4. What is the name of the India's sixth Scorpene-class submarine?

- A) INS Vela
- B) INS Vagsheer
- C) INS Khanderi
- D) INS Kalvari

5. _____ was appointed as the new Principal Scientific Advisor.

- A) Ajay Kumar Sood
- B) Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay
- C) Subhash Garg
- D) V. K. Saraswat

6. To set up a world-class data centre which of the following state has signed an MoU with the NIXI and CSE e-governance services Limited?

- A) Tripura
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Bihar
- D) Assam

7. After the former Chief Minister of Karnataka B. S. Yediyurappa which of the following airport will be named?

- A) Hubli Airport
- B) Kalaburagi Airport
- C) Mangalore International Airport
- D) Shivamogga Airport

8. _____ became the first state in India to install the L-Route Server.

- A) Bihar
- B) Haryana
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

9. Which of the following country has agreed to provide an additional \$ 500 million loans to Sri Lanka for fuel?

- A) Nepal

- B) India
- C) China
- D) Bangladesh

10. For fintech start-ups the 'Fincluvation' initiative was launched by which of the following payments bank?

- A) NSDL Payments Bank
- B) India Post Payments Bank
- C) Fino Payments Bank
- D) Airtel Payment Bank

11. As per the 2022 edition of the Wisden Almanack who was named as the Leading Cricketer in the World?

- A) Ben Stokes
- B) Joe Root
- C) Kane Williamson
- D) Steve Smith

12. As per the 2022 edition of the Wisden Almanack who was named as the Leading T20 Cricketer?

- A) Babar Azam
- B) Devon Conway
- C) Mohammad Rizwan
- D) Shaheen Afridi

13. When the World Book And Copyright Day was observed?

- A) 24 April
- B) 23 April
- C) 21 April
- D) 19 April

14. To protect mangroves ecosystem in the Raigad district of Maharashtra which of the following company has announced a new partnership?

- A) Amazon
- B) Apple
- C) Google
- D) Microsoft

15. Which of the following organisation has launched the quarterly Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS) to assess business sentiment?

- A) NPCI
- B) SIDBI
- C) RBI
- D) NSDL

16. Who among the following has won the Champion of The Earth Lifetime Achievement Award 2021?

- A) Greta Thunberg
- B) David Bellamy
- C) David Attenborough
- D) Alastair Fothergill

17. When the National Panchayati Raj Day was observed in India?

- A) 27 April
- B) 26 April
- C) 25 April
- D) 24 April

18. India's first bus service with a fully digital ticketing facility was inaugurated in which of the following state?

- A) Telangana

- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

19. India's first global Ayush investment and innovation summit 2022 was held in which of the following state?

- A) Tripura
- B) Gujarat
- C) Manipur
- D) Assam

20. Which of the following state celebrated Khongjom Day in April 2022?

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

21. Which of the following district became the first district in India to cover 100% households under AB-PMJAY- SEHAT scheme?

- A) Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
- B) Samba, Jammu & Kashmir
- C) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Howrah, West Bengal

22. Which of the following organisation has signed an MoU with Equinor ASA for collaboration and partnership in exploration and production of clean energy projects?

- A) Oil India Limited
- B) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
- C) Hindustan Petroleum Limited

- D) Bharat Petroleum Limited

23. A contactless RuPay Cards in the form of Keychain was launched by which of the following fintech company in partnership with NPCI and Transcorp?

- A) Airtel
- B) PhonePe
- C) Pencilton
- D) Jio

24. Who among the following took charges as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes?

- A) Buta Singh
- B) P. L. Punia
- C) R. S. Katheria
- D) Vijay Sampla

25. Under the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program, Bharti Airtel acquired how much stake in Cnergee Technologies?

- A) 3%
- B) 7%
- C) 10%
- D) 12%

26. Which of the following company's CEO Ashwin Yardi was appointed as the UNICEF's YuWaah board co-chair?

- A) Accenture
- B) Capgemini
- C) HCL Technologies
- D) Infosys

27. _____ was named on the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Young Global Leaders list.

- A) Raghav Chadha
- B) Radhika Gupta
- C) Mykhailo Fedorov
- D) All of the above

28. Which state's former Chief Minister, J. D. Rymbai has passed away at the age of 83?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Mizoram
- D) Sikkim

29. Which country's former president Mwai Kibaki passed away recently at the age of 90?

- A) Bolivia
- B) Kenya
- C) Somalia
- D) Vietnam

30. Who among the following became the first-ever Indian freestyle wrestler to clinched third straight Asian Championship gold medal?

- A) Satywart Kadian
- B) Ravi Dahiya
- C) Gourav Baliyan
- D) Bajrang Punia

31. Which of the following became India's 1st Carbon-Neutral Panchayat?

- A) Amreli, Gujarat
- B) Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- C) Mandawa, Rajasthan
- D) Palli, Jammu & Kashmir

32. According to a report released by defence think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) what is the rank of the India in World Military Expenditure, 2021?

- A) 5th
- B) 4th
- C) 3rd
- D) 2nd

33. Who among the following became the Prime Minister of Slovenia?

- A) Alenka Bratusek
- B) Janez Jansa
- C) Robert Golob
- D) Miro Cerar

34. Tesla co-founder, Elon Musk has acquired which of the following social network platform?

- A) Facebook
- B) Twitter
- C) Koo
- D) Tick Tok

35. Who among the following authored the book titled "Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping"?

- A) Bertil Lintner
- B) Iqbal Chand Malhotra
- C) Roger Faligot
- D) Zorawar Daulet Singh

36. Where was India's first Amrit Sarovar was completed?

- A) Surat, Gujarat

- B) Rampur, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Hyderabad, Telangana

37. To develop short videos highlighting role of women changemakers which online platform has partnered with I&B Ministry?

- A) SonyLIV
- B) Netflix
- C) Disney+ Hotstar
- D) Amazon Prime

38. When the World Intellectual Property Day was observed?

- A) 27 April
- B) 26 April
- C) 25 April
- D) 24 April

39. Which of the following state government has signed an agreement for developing seven ropeways under Parvatmala Scheme?

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

40. By waving the maximum number (78,220 flags) of the National Flag simultaneously which country has created a Guinness world record?

- A) The USA
- B) Japan

- C) India
- D) China

41. Who among the following took charges as the CEO of Aditya Birla Capital?

- A) Vishakha Mulye
- B) Vineet Joshi
- C) Manoj Gupta
- D) Chetan Ghate

42. Which of the following state's e-Proposal System has won a coveted UN Award — World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes, 2022?

- A) Odisha
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Karnataka
- D) Haryana

43. Renowned _____ Binapani Mohanty passed away at the age of 85.

- A) Writer
- B) Politician
- C) Cricketer
- D) Actress

44. Who among the following was named as the 2022 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2022?

- A) Novak Djokovic
- B) Max Verstappen
- C) Lewis Hamilton
- D) Cristiano Ronaldo

45. Which of the following country will host the 21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA)?

- A) India
- B) Canada
- C) Belgium
- D) Australia

46. Kishore Das of which country was named for the 223rd Commonwealth Points of Light Award?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) France
- C) India
- D) Nepal

47. Renowned _____ Salim Ghose passed away at the age of 70.

- A) Actor
- B) Cricketer
- C) Journalist
- D) Politician

48. Who clinched the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2022?

- A) Max Verstappen
- B) Lewis Hamilton
- C) Charles Leclerc
- D) Carlos Sainz Jr.

49. Who bags the Menorca Open chess tournament 2022?

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

50. When the International Girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Day 2022 was observed?

- A) 29 April
- B) 28 April
- C) 27 April
- D) 26 April

51. For gravity-based energy storage technology which of the following organisation has signed an MoU with Energy Vault?

- A) Adani Group
- B) L&T
- C) Tata Group
- D) NTPC

52. Who among the following was re-appointed as the Chairperson of NCSC?

- A) Prashant Jhaveri
- B) Rakesh Sharma
- C) Sanjeev Sanyal
- D) Vijay Sampla

53. Anshul Swami was appointed by which of the following small finance bank as its MD and CEO?

- A) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- B) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- C) Shivalik Small Finance Bank
- D) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

54. Which tunnel was awarded the 'Best Infrastructure Project' award by the Indian Building Congress (IBC)?

- A) Atal Tunnel

- B) Patalpani Rail Tunnel
- C) Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel
- D) Tunnel T49

55. Renowned _____ M. Vijayan passed away at the age of 80.

- A) Theater Artist
- B) Dancer
- C) Biologist
- D) Actor

56. Where did the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) will build India's first indigenous hydrogen-fuelled electric vessels?

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C) Hindustan Shipyard
- D) Mishra Dhatu Nigam

57. Under Mission SAGAR IX which of the following Indian Navy Ship (INS) has delivered critical medical aid to Sri Lanka?

- A) INS Shardul
- B) INS Gharial
- C) INS Kesari
- D) INS Guldar

58. Which of the following state's 'Miyani Ka Bada' railway station was renamed "Mahesh Nagar Halt"?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Madhya Pradesh

59. Which of the following Indian Insurance company became Signatory to the United Nations – Supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)?

- A) HDFC Life Insurance
- B) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- C) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- D) Max Life Insurance

60. How much the IRDAI has increased the investment limit by insurance companies to invest in the financial sector?

- A) 50%
- B) 40%
- C) 35%
- D) 30%

61. According to the Chainalysis report what is the rank of India in the 2021 estimated Crypto Gains?

- A) 56
- B) 43
- C) 27
- D) 21

62. Where did PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) 2022?

- A) Surat, Gujarat
- B) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- D) Bangalore, Karnataka

63. According to the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) what is the rank of India in the 20th World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2022?

- A) 153

- B) 150
- C) 142
- D) 141

64. To launch 'India's First Neo-bank' for MSMEs which Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) has entered into a joint venture (JV) with Open Financial Technologies?

- A) Tata Capital Financial Service Ltd
- B) Muthoot Finance Ltd
- C) IIFL Finance Ltd
- D) Aditya Birla Finance Ltd

65. Which of the following has imposed penalties of Rs 73 lakh (Totally) on 11 entities for fraudulent trading & disclosure lapses?

- A) IRDA
- B) NBARD
- C) NSDL
- D) SEBI

66. Who among the following took charges as India's new foreign secretary?

- A) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
- B) Vinay Kumar
- C) Vinay Chakravarthy
- D) Vijay Kumar

67. Which team won the men's hockey event at the Khelo India University Games 2022?

- A) Pune City University
- B) Delhi University
- C) Cochin City University
- D) Bengaluru City University

68. _____ became the first public sector bank to go live on the 'Account Aggregator' ecosystem.

- A) Canara Bank
- B) Indian Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

69. Who among the following was named as the national chief rifle coach of India?

- A) Venu Srinivasan
- B) Joydeep Karmakar
- C) Azim Hashim Premji
- D) Ananth Kumar

70. Former finance minister of which of the following country Abul Maal Abdul Muhith passed away at the age of 88?

- A) China
- B) Malaysia
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Thailand

71. When the Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2022 was celebrated?

- A) 1 May
- B) 3 May
- C) 29 April
- D) 30 April

72. 'Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app' to track the movement of sand mining vehicles was launched by which of the following state government?

- A) Andhra Pradesh

- B) Gujarat
- C) Haryana
- D) Karnataka

73. Which of the following company became India's largest FMCG Company?

- A) Adani Wilmar Ltd
- B) Britannia Industries
- C) Dabur
- D) Patanjali Ayurved

74. Who among the following received the World Food Prize 2022?

- A) Ram Pawar
- B) Lawrence Haddad
- C) David Nabarro
- D) Cynthia Rosenzweig

75. Who was the recipient of the Woman Transforming India Award at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)'s 6th Entrepreneur & Leadership Awards 2022?

- A) Vani Kola
- B) Suchi Mukherjee
- C) Radhika Agarwal
- D) Bina Modi

76. According to NSO, the unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years or above in urban areas has come down to how much in Q3-2021?

- A) 9.8%
- B) 9.6%
- C) 8.7%

- D) 8.2%

77. Where did the Indian Coast Guard had commissioned 2nd air squadron, 845 Squadron, equipped with Dhruv ALH Mk III Helicopters?

- A) Chandipur, Odisha
- B) Junagadh, Gujarat
- C) Kochi, Kerala
- D) Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu

78. To deliver Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services for the Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft fleet which company has collaborated with Air Works Group?

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B) BrahMos Aerospace
- C) Boeing India
- D) Bharat Electronics

79. Which of the following company became the 1st Indian company to reach USD 100 billion revenue in FY22?

- A) Adani Group
- B) Aditya Birla Group
- C) Mahindra Group
- D) Reliance Industries

80. For a period of 2 years who among the following was appointed as the 'part-time Chairman' of City Union Bank?

- A) R Mohan
- B) R Balaji
- C) M. Narayanan
- D) Abarna Bhaskar

81. Who among the following was elected as the President of Costa Rica?

- A) Rodrigo Chaves
- B) Luis Guillermo Solís
- C) Laura Chinchilla
- D) Carlos Alvarado Quesada

82. Who among the following won the 1st edition of the Formula 1 'Miami Grand Prix' 2022?

- A) Charles Leclerc
- B) Max Verstappen
- C) Sergio Pérez
- D) Valtteri Bottas

83. Who among the following won the 1st Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2022 chess tournament?

- A) N. R. Visakh
- B) D Gukesh
- C) Arjun Vishnuvardhan
- D) Aadit Khanna

84. Which among the following is the 'mascot' of the 4th Khelo India Youth Games?

- A) Stumpy
- B) Dhakad
- C) Bing Dwen
- D) Bholu

85. Padma Shri Awardee Rajat Kumar Kar recently passed away. He received Padma Shri in which of the following field?

- A) Literature and Education

- B) Medicine
- C) Public Service
- D) Social Work

86. Which of the following Aerospace company has tested 'India's 1st high-performance green propulsion system' for satellites?

- A) Pixxel
- B) Bellatrix Aerospace
- C) Ananth Technologies
- D) AgniKul Cosmos

87. Padma Awardee 'Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma' passed away recently. He has been credited with popularizing which of the following musical instrument?

- A) Yazh
- B) Sursingar
- C) Santoor
- D) Gubguba

88. A new book titled "The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police" was authored by which of the following authors?

- A) Sudhir Pratap Singh
- B) Prakash Singh
- C) Anami Narayan Roy
- D) Ajit Pai

89. Which of the following country became the 1st Asian country to join NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)?

- A) Afghanistan
- B) Japan
- C) South Korea

D) Singapore

90. Which of the following country was elected as the Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities for 2022-2024?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Maldives
- C) Malaysia
- D) India

91. Leonid Kravchuk the former president of which of the following country has passed away recently?

- A) Belarus
- B) Kyrgyzstan
- C) Lithuania
- D) Ukraine

92. To encourage farmers to grow fodder and help gaushalas the 'Chaara – Bijaee Yojana' was launched by which of the following state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Haryana

93. In the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) which of the following country recently replaced Russia?

- A) Czech Republic
- B) Hungary
- C) Moldova
- D) Slovakia

94. To Digitise E-Challan Collections for the Madhya Pradesh Police Department which of the following bank recently partnered with Worldline India?

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

95. Who among the following received the Templeton Prize 2022?

- A) Roger Penrose
- B) Manabe Syukuro
- C) Giorgio Parisi
- D) Frank Wilczek

96. The Ministry of Home Affairs has launched "Repro Subhiksham" a special deposit scheme for _____.

- A) Women Entrepreneurs
- B) Traders
- C) Senior Citizens & Super Senior Citizens
- D) MSME Business

97. The '1st Global Report on Infection Prevention and Control' report was released by which of the following organisation?

- A) WHO
- B) UNICEF
- C) UNEP
- D) UNAIDS

98. Which of the following group of countries has agreed to launch a 'Pandemic Early Warning System'?

- A) ASEAN
- B) SAARC
- C) BRICS
- D) BIMSTEC

99. For cross-border export-import transactions an online platform named "Trade nxt" was launched by which of the following bank?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Bank of India
- C) Canada Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

100. To provide a supported Line of Credit (LoC) for Metro Express & Infrastructure Projects which of the following bank entered into an agreement with the SBM (Mauritius) Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (SBMIDCL)?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Exim Bank
- C) Canada Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

101. Where did union minister Bhagwant Khuba had addressed the event 'Intersolar Europe 2022' on India's Solar Energy Market?

- A) Beijing, China
- B) Geneva, Switzerland
- C) Milan, Italy
- D) Munich, Germany

102. World's longest suspended pedestrian bridge named "Sky Bridge 721" was inaugurated in which of the following country?

- A) Slovakia
- B) Romania
- C) Lithuania
- D) Czech Republic

103. To launch co-branded credit cards which of the following bank has partnered with SpiceJet?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) Axis Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) YES Bank

104. The central government has made the requirement of PAN or Aadhaar number mandatory for depositing or withdrawing how much amount in a financial year?

- A) Rs. 40 lakh
- B) Rs. 30 lakh
- C) Rs. 20 lakh
- D) Rs. 10 lakh

105. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions on withdrawals of current and savings accounts for which of the following bank?

- A) Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank
- B) Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank
- C) Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank
- D) Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha

106. Who among the following was appointed as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India?

- A) Achal Kumar Jyoti
- B) Harishankar Brahma
- C) Rajiv Kumar
- D) Sunil Arora

107. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been elected as the President of which of the following country?

- A) United Arab Emirates

- B) Saudi Arabia
- C) Qatar
- D) Kuwait

108. Which of the following company has acquired Swiss cement major Holcim's stake in Ambuja Cements and its subsidiary ACC?

- A) Aditya Birla Group
- B) Mahindra Group
- C) Adani group
- D) Tata Group

109. Who among the following launched the GatiShakti Sanchar portal for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals?

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Bhupender Yadav
- C) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- D) Anurag Thakur

110. Who among the following won the men's singles title in the Italian Open 2022?

- A) Viktor Troicki
- B) Stefanos Tsitsipas
- C) Daniil Medvedev
- D) Novak Djokovic

111. Which country retained its position as the top recipient of remittances globally in 2021 according to the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief report?

- A) Philippines
- B) Mexico
- C) India

- D) Egypt

112. Which of the following country has surpassed Germany to become fourth largest vehicle market in the world?

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

113. India's first dental health insurance plan was launched by which of the following Insurance company?

- A) Aviva Life Insurance India
- B) Exide Life Insurance
- C) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- D) PNB MetLife India Insurance

114. Elizabeth Borne has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which of the following country?

- A) Austria
- B) France
- C) Italy
- D) Spain

115. Emirates Telecommunications Group Company e& (Etisalat and) has acquired how much stake in Vodafone Group Plc (Vodafone)?

- A) 9.8%
- B) 9.5%
- C) 9.1%
- D) 8.7%

116. The second edition of 'Global Land Outlook (GLO2)' report was released by which of the following organization?

- A) WHO
- B) ADB
- C) UNCCD
- D) World Bank

117. How much India's foreign exchange reserves fell at the end of March this year, according to the 38th half yearly report of the RBI on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves?

- A) \$45.09 billion
- B) \$30.56 billion
- C) \$28.05 billion
- D) \$10.25 billion

118. For enrollment of Atal Pension Yojana Which of the following bank won the 6 national awards from PFRDA?

- A) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank
- B) Kerala Gramin Bank
- C) Maharashtra Gramin Bank
- D) Uttarakhand Gramin Bank

119. Who among the following took charges as the Chairman of BSE?

- A) Ashishkumar Chauhan
- B) SS Mundra
- C) Sushri Jayshree Vyas
- D) T.C. Suseel Kumar

120. Who among the following took charges as the Chairman and Managing Director of Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC Ltd)?

- A) Rakesh Sarwal
- B) Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- C) Arvind Singh
- D) Aditi Das Rout

121. Where did the world's 1st urban airport for drones and flying cars was inaugurated?

- A) Coventry, England
- B) Moc Chau, Vietnam
- C) Osaka, Japan
- D) Samara, Russia

122. According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade data, how much Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation reached in April 2022?

- A) 15.08%
- B) 13.98%
- C) 13.12%
- D) 10.74%

123. How much the retail inflation in India was increased in April 2022?

- A) 8.38%
- B) 7.79%
- C) 7.66%
- D) 6.12%

124. Who among the following took the Additional Charge of Chairman & Managing Director of RailTel Corporation of India Limited?

- A) Sanjai Kumar
- B) Rakesh Ranjan
- C) Aruna Singh

D) Anand Kumar Singh

125. Indian Navy along with which of the following organization has conducted a successful maiden flight-test of indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile?

- A) BEL
- B) DRDO
- C) HAL
- D) ISRO

126. With which Indian Institute of Technology, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has approved research worth Rs 8.34 crore on Hyperloop transport technology?

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

127. Which of the following organisation has released Global Food Policy Report: Climate Change & Food Systems?

- A) World Health Organisation (WHO)
- B) United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- C) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- D) The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

128. Where did the National Geographic Society (NatGeo) installed the world's highest weather station?

- A) Kangchenjunga
- B) Lhotse
- C) Makalu
- D) Mount Everest

129. According to the UN-DESA in its 'World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Mid-year Update 2022 what was the growth projection of India's GDP in 2022-23?

- A) 5.5%
- B) 5.7 %
- C) 6.4 %
- D) 6.7 %

130. Who among the following has decided to step down from the post of Managing Director and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank?

- A) Viswanatha Prasad Subbaraman
- B) PN Vasudevan
- C) Jayshree Ashwinkumar Vyas
- D) Bhaskar S

131. The 'World's largest Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project (IRESP)' was launched by Greenko Group in which of the following state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

132. A high level multi-sectoral delegation headed by Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef has visited India recently. He is the commerce minister of which of the following country?

- A) Yemen
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Oman

133. Which of the following University ranked first in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022?

- A) Mumbai University
- B) Calcutta University
- C) Patna University
- D) Chandigarh University

134. Which of the following bank partnered with the Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer UPI payments?

- A) Bandhan Bank
- B) IDFC FIRST Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) South Indian Bank

135. Which of the following Indian Aerospace company has tested the Kalam-100 Engine on Vikram 1 launch vehicle?

- A) Skyroot Aerospace
- B) Pixxel
- C) Bellatrix Aerospace
- D) Agnikul Cosmos

136. Along with India which of the following country has conducted the 4th edition of the Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) France
- C) Indonesia
- D) Singapore

137. The DGCA has granted which of the following Airways the Air Operator Certificate (AOC), allowing it to resume commercial flight operations?

- A) Spice Jet
- B) IndiGo
- C) Jet Airways
- D) Vistara

138. Who among the following received the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2022?

- A) Anna Qabale Duba
- B) Florence Nightingale
- C) Lincy Padicala Joseph
- D) Rachel Abraham Joseph

139. Anthony Norman Albanese was elected as the new Prime Minister of which of the following country?

- A) Spain
- B) Belgium
- C) Austria
- D) Australia

140. Paytm has reappointed who among the following as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)?

- A) Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- B) Sameer Nigam
- C) Rahul Chari
- D) Binny Bansal

141. India's first state-owned OTT platform named "CSpace" will launch by which of the following state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Kerala
- D) Telangana

142. Who among the following has inaugurated India's first Centre of Excellence for Khadi in New Delhi?

- A) Amit Shah
- B) Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Narayan Rane
- D) PM Modi

143. India along with which of the following country has conducted Bongosagar exercise?

- A) UK
- B) US
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Sri Lanka

144. Who will chair the 6-member committee constituted by RBI to review customer service standards in RBI Regulated Entities (REs)?

- A) Rajeshri N Varhadi
- B) B. P. Kanungo
- C) Atul Kumar Goel
- D) A S Ramasastrri

145. A Co-Branded Credit Card for Chemists and Pharmacies was launched by which of the following bank in collaboration with Retailio?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) YES Bank

146. Recently the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched which edition of Swachh Survekshan?

- A) 6th
- B) 7th
- C) 8th
- D) 9th

147. In 2022 the BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was hosted by which of the following country?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Russia
- D) South Africa

148. To enhance the digital payments ecosystem which of the following bank has partnered with Mahagram?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) YES Bank

149. Which of the following company became the world's most valuable company in May 2022?

- A) Alphabet Inc.
- B) Amazon
- C) Saudi Aramco
- D) Tesla, Inc

150. Who among the following received the Bangla Academy Award?

- A) Taslima Nasrin
- B) Samaresh Majumdar
- C) Ratna Rashid Banerjee
- D) Mamata Banerjee

ANSWERS**1. Correct Answer: A**

The world's largest 3-wheeler EV-making plant will be established in Telangana.

2. Correct Answer: B

Patrick Achi has been re-appointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.

3. Correct Answer: A

Russian Central Bank has registered a new payment system named 'HELLO'.

4. Correct Answer: B

INS Vagsheer, the sixth Scorpene-class submarine under the Project-75, was launched by defence secretary Ajay Kumar in Mumbai.

5. Correct Answer: A

Eminent physicist Ajay Kumar Sood has been appointed as the principal scientific advisor (PSA) to the government.

6. Correct Answer: A

Tripura government has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and CSE e-governance services Limited to set up a world-class data centre.

7. Correct Answer: D

Shivamogga airport in Sogane is set to be named after the former Chief Minister of Karnataka B. S. Yediyurappa.

8. Correct Answer: D

Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to install L-Route server for uninterrupted internet services.

9. Correct Answer: B

Sri Lanka's foreign minister said that India will provide an additional \$500 million in financial assistance to Sri Lanka for it to buy fuel.

10. Correct Answer: B

India Post Payments Bank has launched the 'Fincluvation' for fintech start-ups.

11. Correct Answer: B

England's Test captain Joe Root has been named as the Leading Cricketer in the World as per the 2022 edition of the Wisden Almanack.

12. Correct Answer: C

Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan has been named as the Leading T20 Cricketer in the World as per the 2022 edition of the Wisden Almanack.

13. Correct Answer: B

Each year, on 23 April World Book and Copyright Day is observed to promote the enjoyment of books and reading.

14. Correct Answer: B

Apple has announced a new partnership with the Applied Environmental Research Foundation and Conservation International to protect the mangrove ecosystem in the Raigad district of Maharashtra.

15. Correct Answer: C

In an official statement Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has launched the next round of the quarterly Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS) to assess business sentiment for the

current quarter and expectations for the ensuing three-month period.

16. Correct Answer: C

Sir David Attenborough was honoured with the Champion of The Earth Lifetime Achievement Award 2021 by the United Nations Environment Programme.

17. Correct Answer: D

Every year India celebrates National Panchayati Raj day on April 24.

18. Correct Answer: B

Maharashtra's Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray has inaugurated India's first bus service with the fully digital ticketing facility in Mumbai.

19. Correct Answer: B

India's first global Ayush investment and innovation summit 2022 was held at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

20. Correct Answer: D

Khongjom Day is celebrated every year on the 23rd of April remembering those gallant Manipuri warriors who made supreme sacrifice fighting against the British to protect the freedom of Manipur in the battle of Khongjom.

21. Correct Answer: B

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Samba district of Jammu division has become the first district in India to cover 100% households under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY)- SEHAT scheme.

22. Correct Answer: B

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has signed an MoU with Equinor ASA for collaboration and partnership in areas of upstream Exploration & Production, midstream, downstream and clean energy options.

23. Correct Answer: C

Teen-focused fintech company, Pencilton, has launched PencilKey, the NCMC-complaint RuPay on-the-go contactless keychains for teens, in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Transcorp.

24. Correct Answer: D

BJP leader and former Union minister Vijay Sampla has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

25. Correct Answer: B

Bharti Airtel has acquired a 7% stake in cloud-based networking solutions provider Cnergee Technologies under the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program.

26. Correct Answer: B

Capgemini CEO Ashwin Yardi was appointed UNICEF's YuWaah board co-chair.

27. Correct Answer: D

Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha, Edelweiss Mutual Fund CEO Radhika Gupta and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov were named by the World Economic Forum in its 2022 list of Young Global Leaders.

28. Correct Answer: B

The former Chief Minister of Meghalaya J. D. Rymbai has passed away at the age of 83.

29. Correct Answer: B

Former president of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki has passed away recently at the age of 90.

30. Correct Answer: B

Indian wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya became the first-ever Indian freestyle wrestler to win a hat-trick of Asian Championship gold medals.

31. Correct Answer: D

Palli in Jammu and Kashmir becomes India's first 'carbon neutral panchayat' with the inauguration of a 500 KW Solar Power Plant.

32. Correct Answer: C

India's military expenditure increased to USD 76.6 billion in 2021 making India world's third largest military spender according to the report released by SIPRI in April 2022.

33. Correct Answer: C

Robert Golob has become the Prime Minister of Slovenia by defeating three-time prime minister Janez Janša.

34. Correct Answer: B

World's richest person and Tesla co-founder, Elon Musk recently acquired 100 per cent stake in Twitter for approx \$44 billion.

35. Correct Answer: C

"Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping" is authored by French journalist Roger Faligot.

36. Correct Answer: B

With the efforts of Uttar Pradesh government, India's first 'Amrit Sarovar' has been completed in Rampur's Gram Panchayat Patwai.

37. Correct Answer: B

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Netflix have collaborated to produce the first set of videos featuring seven Women Change makers from across the country.

38. Correct Answer: B

On 26 April World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually.

39. Correct Answer: A

Himachal Pradesh government has signed an agreement with National Highways Logistics Management Limited for developing seven ropeways under Parvatmala Scheme.

40. Correct Answer: C

India created history and marked its name in the Guinness Book of World records by waving the maximum number (78,220 flags) of the National Flag simultaneously.

41. Correct Answer: A

Former executive director of ICICI Bank Vishakha Mulye has been appointed as the CEO of Aditya Birla Capital.

42. Correct Answer: B

The state planning department's key initiative of e-proposal system, part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), has won a coveted UN Award — World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes, 2022.

43. Correct Answer: A

Legendary Odia writer Binapani Mohanty died at her residence in Cuttack at the age of 85.

44. Correct Answer: B

F1 champion Max Verstappen has been named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2022.

45. Correct Answer: A

India is set to host the 21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA) according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) president, Debashis Mitra.

46. Correct Answer: A

The founder of educational charity 'Bidyanando' Kishroe Kumar Das from Bangladesh was named for the 223rd Commonwealth Points of Light Award.

47. Correct Answer: A

Veteran actor, Salim Ghouse has passed away at the age of 70 in Mumbai due to cardiac arrest.

48. Correct Answer: A

Max Verstappen bags the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2022.

49. Correct Answer: B

Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh has won the Menorca Open chess tournament 2022.

50. Correct Answer: B

The International Girls in Information Communications Technology (ICT) Day takes place every year on the fourth Thursday of April. This year it was observed on 28 April.

51. Correct Answer: D

Energy Vault and NTPC, India's Largest Power Utility, has signed an MOU for Gravity-Based Energy Storage Technology.

52. Correct Answer: D

BJP leader and former Union minister Vijay Sampla has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

53. Correct Answer: C

Shivalik Small Finance Bank has appointed Anshul Swami as its MD & CEO.

54. Correct Answer: A

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) engineering marvel, Atal Tunnel, has received the Indian Building Congress' (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award in New Delhi.

55. Correct Answer: C

Eminent biologist Prof M. Vijayan has passed away at the age of 80.

56. Correct Answer: A

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is set to build India's first indigenous hydrogen-fuelled electric vessels at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

57. Correct Answer: B

INS Gharial as part of Mission SAGAR IX arrived at Colombo on 29 April 2022 and delivered over 760 kgs of 107 types of critical lifesaving medicines with the overarching aim of providing critical medical aid to Sri Lanka during the ongoing crisis.

58. Correct Answer: C

The 'Miyan Ka Bada' railway station in Balotra area of Rajasthan's Barmer district has now been officially renamed as 'Mahesh Nagar Halt'.

59. Correct Answer: A

HDFC Life recently signed up for the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), epitomising

its objective of sustainable growth and long term value creation.

60. Correct Answer: D

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has increased the investment limit by insurance companies to invest in the financial sector to 30% from 25% freeing up more money for investments in stocks and bonds in the sector.

61. Correct Answer: D

According to the Chainalysis report India stood at 21st position with an estimated realized gain of \$1.85 billion, lagging behind Asian peers such as Turkey, South Korea and even Vietnam.

62. Correct Answer: A

PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) 2022 in Surat, Gujarat via video conferencing.

63. Correct Answer: B

India has slipped 8 points in the 20th World Press Freedom Index (WPI) 2022, from 142 a year ago to 150 in 2022 according to a report released by Reporters Without Borders.

64. Correct Answer: C

Non-Banking financial company IIFL Finance Ltd and Open Financial Technologies, Asia's largest SME focused neo-banking platform has announced a joint venture (JV) to launch India's first neobank for MSMEs.

65. Correct Answer: D

For fraudulent trading & disclosure lapses Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed penalties of Rs 73 lakh (Totally) on 11 entities.

66. Correct Answer: A

Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as India's new foreign secretary.

67. Correct Answer: D

Bengaluru City University has won the men's hockey event at the Khelo India University Games 2022.

68. Correct Answer: D

Union Bank of India becomes the first Public Sector Bank to join the Account Aggregator framework.

69. Correct Answer: B

Bengal shooter Joydeep Karmakar has been appointed as the national chief rifle coach of India.

70. Correct Answer: C

Former finance minister of Bangladesh Abul Maal Abdul Muhith has passed away. He was 88.

71. Correct Answer: D

Ayushmaan Bharat Diwas 2022 was observed on April 30.

72. Correct Answer: C

Haryana government has launched a Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app to track the movement of sand mining vehicles.

73. Correct Answer: A

Adani Wilmar Ltd became the largest Fast Moving Consumer Goods Company (FMCG) in India by surpassing Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL).

74. Correct Answer: D

Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig of the NASA received the World Food Prize 2022 for her research in climate change and food production.

75. Correct Answer: D

Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson of Modi Enterprises received the Woman Transforming India Award at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)'s 6th Entrepreneur & Leadership Awards 2022.

76. Correct Answer: C

The unemployment rate for persons of 15 years and above in urban areas slipped to 8.7 per cent in October-December 2021 from 10.3 per cent in the year-ago quarter, as per the periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

77. Correct Answer: C

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned its 2nd Air Squadron, 845 Squadron, at the Coast Guard Air Enclave at Nedumbassery in Kochi.

78. Correct Answer: C

Boeing India has collaborated with Air Works Group to deliver maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services for the Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft fleet.

79. Correct Answer: D

Reliance Industries's revenue has crossed \$100 billion in fiscal 2022, becoming the first Indian company to reach the milestone.

80. Correct Answer: C

M. Narayanan has been appointed as the part time chairman of City Union Bank Ltd. (CUB) for a period of two years from May 4.

81. Correct Answer: A

Costa Rica's new president, Rodrigo Chaves, was sworn in, promising to combat corruption and rebuild the country's economy.

82. Correct Answer: B

Max Verstappen won the first-ever 'Miami Grand Prix' 2022 held in Florida, United States (US).

83. Correct Answer: B

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh won the Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2022 chess tournament held in Spain.

84. Correct Answer: B

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur launched the mascot 'Dhakad' along with official logo and official jersey of the Fourth Khelo India Youth Games.

85. Correct Answer: A

Eminent Odia litterateur Rajat Kumar Kar has passed away recently. He received Padma Shri in 2021 for literature and education.

86. Correct Answer: B

Bengaluru based Bellatrix Aerospace company has recently tested 'India's 1st high-performance green propulsion system' for satellites.

87. Correct Answer: C

Legendary musician and santoor player Pandit Shivkumar Sharma passed away on May 10. He was 84 years old. The musician has been credited with popularising the once little-known musical instrument, santoor.

88. Correct Answer: B

A new book titled "The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police" authored by a former IPS officer, Prakash Singh was released by Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, in New Delhi.

89. Correct Answer: C

South Korea has become the first Asian country to join North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE).

90. Correct Answer: D

India has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024.

91. Correct Answer: D

Independent Ukraine's first president Leonid Kravchuk has passed away recently. He was 88.

92. Correct Answer: D

The Haryana government has launched the 'Chaar-Bijae Yojana' to encourage farmers to grow fodder and help gaushalas.

93. Correct Answer: A

The UN General Assembly has voted overwhelmingly for the Czech Republic to replace Russia on the Human Rights Council.

94. Correct Answer: B

Bank of India has partnered with Worldline India to Digitise E-Challan Collections for the Madhya Pradesh Police Department.

95. Correct Answer: D

Dr Frank Wilczek, American Theoretical physicist, author and Nobel prize winner, has been announced as the recipient of the 2022 Templeton Prize.

96. Correct Answer: C

“Repco Subiksham” provides a new deposit scheme for senior citizens. It is a retail deposit scheme meant for senior citizens (aged above 60) and super senior citizens (age above 80).

97. Correct Answer: A

World Health Organization (WHO) released the ‘1st Global Report on Infection Prevention and Control’ report.

98. Correct Answer: C

During the 12th meeting of BRICS health ministers, the BRICS countries agreed to launch a ‘Pandemic Early Warning System’.

99. Correct Answer: D

The Union Bank of India has launched an online platform, 'Trade nxt', which enables corporate, and MSMEs to perform cross-border export-import transactions.

100. Correct Answer: B

Exim Bank has entered into an agreement with the SBM (Mauritius) Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (SBMIDCL) to provide a supported Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 190 million for Metro Express & Infrastructure Projects.

101. Correct Answer: D

Union minister of state for ministry of new and renewable energy, Bhagwant Khuba had addressed the event ‘Intersolar Europe 2022’ in Munich, Germany on India’s solar energy market.

102. Correct Answer: D

The world's longest suspended pedestrian bridge, Sky Bridge 721 was recently inaugurated in the Czech Republic.

103. Correct Answer: B

SpiceJet and Axis Bank has collaborated to launch co-branded credit cards.

104. Correct Answer: C

The Central government has made requirement of a PAN or Aadhaar number mandatory for depositing or withdrawing Rs 20 lakh or more in a financial year.

105. Correct Answer: C

The RBI has imposed several restrictions on Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, including on withdrawals, in view of the lender's worsening financial position.

106. Correct Answer: C

Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India.

107. Correct Answer: A

The Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates has elected Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the President of the United Arab Emirates.

108. Correct Answer: C

Adani group has acquired Swiss cement major Holcim's stake in Ambuja Cements and its subsidiary ACC for \$10.5 bn.

109. Correct Answer: C

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Railways, has launched the "GatiShakti Sanchar" portal for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals.

110. Correct Answer: D

Serbia's Novak Djokovic defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final, 6–0, 7–6(7–5) to win the men's singles tennis title at the 2022 Italian Open.

111. Correct Answer: C

According to the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief report, India has retained its position as the top recipient of remittances globally in 2021.

112. Correct Answer: C

According to the latest numbers sourced from the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA) India has once again overtaken Germany to become the fourth largest automotive market.

113. Correct Answer: D

Private insurer PNB MetLife India Insurance has launched India's first dental health insurance plan.

114. Correct Answer: B

French President Emmanuel Macron has named Elisabeth Borne as the second woman Prime minister of France.

115. Correct Answer: A

Emirates Telecommunications Group Company, now known as e& (Etisalat and), has acquired a 9.8% stake in Vodafone for \$4.4 billion.

116. Correct Answer: C

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has released the second edition of 'Global Land Outlook (GLO2)' report.

117. Correct Answer: C

The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$28.05 billion to \$607.31 billion at the end of March this year from \$635.36 billion at the end of September 2021, according to the RBI's 38th half-yearly report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves.

118. Correct Answer: A

A regional rural bank sponsored by Canara Bank, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has won the 6 national awards from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in different categories for enrollment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

119. Correct Answer: B

Former Deputy Governor of the RBI SS Mundra has been appointed as the Chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange Limited (BSE).

120. Correct Answer: B

Vivek Kumar Dewangan has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC Ltd).

121. Correct Answer: A

The world's 1st urban airport for drones and flying cars is located Coventry, England.

122. Correct Answer: A

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Wholesale price inflation hit 15.08% in April, the highest since September 1991.

123. Correct Answer: B

An official data showed inflation based on consumer price index scaling an 8-year high of 7.79% in April, on a broad-based rise in price pressures across food, fuel and core segments.

124. Correct Answer: C

Mrs. Aruna Singh has been appointed as new Chairman & Managing Director of RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL).

125. Correct Answer: B

DRDO & Indian Navy has conducted successful maiden flight-test of indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile from a Naval Helicopter from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

126. Correct Answer: B

Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw sanctioned Rs 8.34 crore collaborative initiative on Hyperloop Technology, proposing a high-speed transportation system with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras.

127. Correct Answer: C

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has released Global Food Policy Report: Climate Change & Food Systems, showing due to Climate Change India's risk for hunger could increase 23% by 2030.

128. Correct Answer: D

National Geographic Society (NatGeo) has installed the "world's highest weather station" on Mount Everest.

129. Correct Answer: C

'World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Mid-year Update 2022' report by UN-DESA has declined India's GDP growth projections from 6.7% to 6.4%.

130. Correct Answer: B

PN Vasudevan Managing Director and CEO, Equitas Small Finance Bank, has decided to step down for a career in health and education.

131. Correct Answer: A

Greenko Group has launched the World's largest Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project (IRES) at Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh.

132. Correct Answer: D

A high level multi-sectoral delegation headed by Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion of the Sultanate of Oman has visited India from May 10-14, 2022.

133. Correct Answer: B

Calcutta University has been ranked 1st in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022.

134. Correct Answer: C

RBL Bank, Amazon Pay and Amazon Web Services (AWS) has announced a partnership to offer UPI payments.

135. Correct Answer: A

Indian space startup Skyroot Aerospace has successfully tested the Kalam-100 engine that will power the third stage of the Vikram-1 launch.

136. Correct Answer: A

The fourth edition of the Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) conducted recently in the Northern Bay of Bengal.

137. Correct Answer: C

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted Jet Airways the Air Operator Certificate (AOC), allowing it to resume commercial flight operations.

138. Correct Answer: A

Anna Qabale Duba from Marsabit County in Kenya received the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2022.

139. Correct Answer: D

Anthony Norman Albanese has been elected as the 31st Prime Minister of Australia.

140. Correct Answer: A

One 97 Communications, which operates under Paytm brand, has reappointed its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as managing director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm.

141. Correct Answer: C

In a first in the country, Kerala will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform, CSpace, on November 1 2022.

142. Correct Answer: C

Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane has inaugurated India's first Centre of Excellence for Khadi in New Delhi.

143. Correct Answer: C

Navies of India & Bangladesh has conducted Bongosagar exercise at Port Mongla, Bangladesh.

144. Correct Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India has set up a six-member committee headed by former Deputy Governor, B. P. Kanungo, to review customer service standards in entities regulated by it.

145. Correct Answer: B

Private sector lender HDFC Bank and B2B pharma marketplace Retailio has launched a new range of co-branded credit cards for Chemists, Pharmacies.

146. Correct Answer: C

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has recently launched the 8th edition of Swachh Survekshan.

147. Correct Answer: A

People's Republic of China hosted 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting through video conference.

148. Correct Answer: C

Mahagram has announced it has signed a partnership with the IndusInd Bank to digitize the country's payment ecosystem and provide a wider horizon to transact especially for its customers in rural India.

149. Correct Answer: C

Saudi Aramco surpassed Apple for a day to become the world's most valuable company on the back of increasing oil prices that drove up its shares.

150. Correct Answer: D

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has received the Bangla Academy Award for her 2020 book 'Kabita Bitan'.

SECTION 3



Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

PAN, Aadhaar made mandatory for high-value cash deposits & withdrawals



The government has made requirement of a Permanent Account Number (PAN) or Aadhaar number for depositing or withdrawing Rs 20 lakh or more in a financial year or for opening a current account mandatory.

Regulating high-value transactions

- In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes stated that for such high-value cash deposits or withdrawals from banks in a financial year, providing a PAN or biometric Aadhaar will be required.
- The same rules apply when opening a bank or post office current account or cash credit account.
- Banks, post offices, and co-operative societies would be compelled to declare deposits and withdrawals totaling more than Rs 20 lakh in a financial year.
- For cash deposits of Rs 50,000 or more in a single day, PAN is currently required.

- With these rules, a total annual threshold of Rs 20 lakh has been established.

How will this help tax department?

- This step will assist the government in tracking cash in the financial system.
- It is designed to assist the IRS in monitoring deposits and withdrawals where the individual would not otherwise pay tax on his or her income.

Why PAN-Aadhaar interoperability?

- Banks will be able to record details for persons who do not have a PAN using the PAN-Aadhaar interoperability.
- If an individual claims that he or she does not have a PAN, the interchangeable clause in the laws allows a bank or financial institution to request Aadhaar.
- PAN and Aadhaar can now be used interchangeably, thanks to the Finance Act of 2019.
- Every individual who is required to provide, divulge, or cite his PAN under the Income Tax Act is expected to do so.
- Those who have not been assigned a PAN but have an Aadhaar number may provide, intimate, or mention their Aadhaar number in place of their PAN.

Explained: Repo Rate in India



Earlier this month, the RBI, in a surprise move decided unanimously to raise the “policy repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40%, with immediate effect”.

What is the Repo Rate?

- The repo rate is one of the RBI's many direct and indirect instruments for executing monetary policy.
- The repo rate is the set interest rate at which the RBI lends overnight liquidity to banks in exchange for government and other approved securities as collateral under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).
- To put it another way, when banks have short-term funding needs, they can deposit government securities with the central bank and borrow money against them at the repo rate.
- Because this is the rate of interest that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) charges commercial banks like SBI and ICICI Bank when it lends them money, it acts as a major benchmark for lenders to price the loans they offer to its clients.

Why is the repo rate such a crucial monetary tool?

- When government central banks buy securities from commercial lenders, they do so at a discounted rate known as the repo rate, according to Investopedia.

- The repo rate system enables central banks to control the money supply in economies by increasing or decreasing the amount of money available.

How does the repo rate work?

- Aside from the direct loan pricing relationship, the repo rate also serves as a monetary tool by assisting in the regulation of liquidity and funds availability in the banking system.
- When the repo rate is reduced, for example, banks may be enticed to sell securities back to the government in exchange for cash.
- This expands the money supply available to the economy as a whole.
- In contrast, if the repo rate is raised, lenders will be hesitant to borrow from the central bank at the repo window, limiting the amount of money available in the economy.
- Because inflation is created by more money chasing the same amount of goods and services in an economy, central banks often regulate the money supply to slow inflation.

What impact can a repo rate change have on inflation?

- Inflation can take two forms: demand-driven price increases or supply-side reasons.
- As a result, the cost of inputs utilised by manufacturers of goods and providers of services has increased.
- As a result, it is causing inflation, or, more commonly, a mix of demand and supply side pressures.
- Changes in the repo rate work primarily on the demand side to alter interest rates and the availability of money supply.
- It raises the cost of lending and increases the appeal of saving, reducing spending.

- However, they do little to address supply-side issues, such as the high cost of commodities like crude oil and metals, or the importation of food goods like edible oils.

What is 'Storage Gain' in Wheat?

Punjab's state procurement agencies (SPAs) are seeking a waiver of 'storage gain'.

What is 'storage gain' in wheat?

- Wheat, as a 'living grain,' tends to grow weight while being stored.
- This is known as 'storage gain,' and it is caused by moisture absorption.
- There are three sections of the grain — bran (outer layer rich in fibre), germ (inner layer rich in nutrients) and endosperm (bulk of the kernel which includes minerals and vitamins) (bulk of the kernel which contains minerals and vitamins).
- The endosperm absorbs the majority of the liquid.

Who compensates whom for 'storage gain'?

- State procurement agencies that buy and store wheat are obligated to give the Food Corporation of India one kilogramme of wheat extra each quintal (FCI).
- While 20% of wheat procured by the FCI and SPAs is transferred the same day it is purchased.
- Storage gain must normally be accounted for on the remaining 80%, which is moved out after July 1 every year, due to the extended storage duration.

What is Pravaig Field Pack?



A Bengaluru-based venture has produced a rugged tactical battery that it is now planning to sell to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces in Europe.

Pravaig Field Pack

- It's a portable, heavy-duty power bank that weights 14 kg.
- It's especially useful for today's digitally connected military and Special Forces members who have to work in high-risk areas while utilising gadgets that demand constant power.
- These batteries were created in India, where they were developed, engineered, and manufactured.
- A MacBook may be charged 60 times using the field pack.

Significance of Pravaig

- This supply signals a dramatic transition in the defence landscape of India – a tipping point in the turnaround of India's high technology defence industry, from users to developers, from importers to exporters.
- The field pack can be used to re-energize military personnel in the field and to install remote sensors.

- A powerful tactical battery can also be utilised to operate larger military equipment like drones, as well as assisting in the coordination of tactical operations involving several weapons systems.

Understanding SEBI Rules on Passive Funds



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently issued a circular on passive funds covering matters related to transparency, liquidity and operational aspects of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and index funds.

What are Passive Funds?

- A passive fund is an investment vehicle that determines what to invest in by tracking a market index or a specific market segment.
- Unlike active funds, the fund manager has no say over which securities the fund invests in.
- Passive funds are typically less expensive to invest in than active funds, which require the fund manager to spend time investigating and analysing investment opportunities.
- Passive funds include ETFs (exchange traded funds) and index funds, which are tracker funds.

What is a passive ELSS scheme?

- Passive funds imitate the performance of an underlying index. Active funds, on the other hand, are actively managed by fund managers.
- The SEBI has now created a passive equity-linked saving schemes (ELSS) category, which will

provide taxpayers with another investment choice that will allow them to take advantage of tax benefits.

- The passive ELSS plan, according to the circular, will be based on any index that includes equity shares from the top 250 firms in terms of market capitalization.
- A fund house will be eligible to have either an active or a passive ELSS plan starting July 1, but not both.

What are the norms for debt ETFs?

- Passive debt funds are now divided into three categories:
 1. Corporate debt funds with exposure to corporate bonds
 2. G-Sec funds investing in government securities, and
 3. Hybrid funds where allocation is a combination of corporate bonds and government securities
- Debt funds in the passive category currently only invest in AAA-rated instruments.
- The Sebi circular establishes portfolio exposure restrictions for each sector, issuer (based on rating), and group for each debt fund category.
- These rules should help to reduce the concentration risk in debt ETFs and index products.

What about tracking error?

- As per Sebi's circular, passive funds must declare 'tracking error' and 'tracking difference' in their monthly fact sheets.
- These indicators show how the fund's performance differs from that of its underlying index, in an effort to keep investors better informed.

- The circular establishes tracking error and tracking difference restrictions that passive funds must adhere to.

What is the mandate on disclosing NAVs?

- Because of the lack of liquidity in India's secondary market for ETFs, ETF prices may range significantly from the fund's net asset value (NAV).
- The fund's NAV represents the value of the ETF's underlying asset.
- The Sebi circular requires continuous disclosure of NAV (indicative) on the stock exchange throughout the day.
- While the practise is already in place, the Sebi rules make it official.
- Checking the NAV can assist you avoid paying a substantial premium or discount on a transaction.

Can one execute ETF transactions directly?

- Only stock exchanges allow investors to buy and sell ETF units.
- Large buy or sell transactions, on the other hand, can be made directly with the fund house.
- Orders for redemption or subscription bigger than Rs 25 crore can now be placed directly with the asset management business, according to Sebi (AMC).

What is the Service Charge levied by Restaurants on Customers?



The Centre has called a meeting of restaurant owners over service charge levied by them on customers.

Why in news?

- The restaurants are collecting service charges from consumers by default, even though collection of any such charge is voluntary and at the discretion of consumers and not mandatory as per law.

What are the components of a food bill?

- In India, a restaurant bill consists of a meal fee (from the menu), a service charge (ranging from 5% to 15%), and a 5% GST (IGST+SGST) on the whole amount.
- This applies to all types of stand-alone eateries.
- If a restaurant is located within a hotel with a room tariff of more than Rs 7,500 (usually in five-star hotels), the GST rate is 18%.

Nature of Service charge

- While the GST is required by law, the service charge is meant to be discretionary.
- It's the equivalent of what's known as gratuity in other parts of the world, or tip in common usage.

- The service charge is usually decided by the restaurant and printed at the bottom of the menu with an asterisk.

Policy measures

- "Guidelines on Fair Trade Practices Related to Charging of Service Charge from Consumers by Hotels/ Restaurants" was issued by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- It was stated explicitly that the provision of food and beverages ordered by a customer is a component of service.
- As a result, the product's pricing is intended to include both the goods and service components.
- The bill "may clearly reflect that service charge is voluntary, and the service charge column of the bill may be left blank for the consumer to fill in before making payment," according to the statement.

What do the restaurants say?

- The decision to impose or not charge a service charge by a restaurant is a matter of individual policy.
- The imposition of such a charge is not prohibited.
- When a consumer is made aware of a charge in advance and then agrees to place an order, the two parties have reached an agreement, which is not an unfair commercial practise.
- GST is also paid to the government on the above-mentioned charge.

Where does the fund go?

- Restaurants claim that a large portion of the service charge collected goes to the employees, with the remainder going to a welfare fund to assist them in good and bad times.

- It's a default billing option, though clients can opt out if they don't want to pay it.
- They are paid wages, of course, but the service charge serves as an incentive for them.
- Patrons can also choose not to pay the charge and tip the waiter directly, according to restaurateurs, but the backstage personnel is not compensated in this instance.
- A service charge ensures that all employees are fairly compensated.

What is the issue then?

- The issue is that practically all restaurants have put service fee (fixed at their own accord) as a default billing option.
- And if a customer is aware that it is optional and want to have it deleted or tip the server directly, it is up to them to persuade management why they do not want to pay it.
- The agency claims it has received multiple complaints alleging that it causes public shame and detracts from the dining experience because customers must either pay the charge discreetly and leave feeling duped, or fight to get it removed.
- Furthermore, there is no clarity regarding the destination of this charge.
- Officials also claim that collecting service charges on their own and paying GST to the government does not entitle them to do so.

Problems faced by customers

- This is the component that has been a source of contention in the past, with consumers claiming they are not obligated to pay it.
- It further stated that hotels and restaurants charging consumers tips in the name of service

charges without their informed authorization is an unfair trading practise.

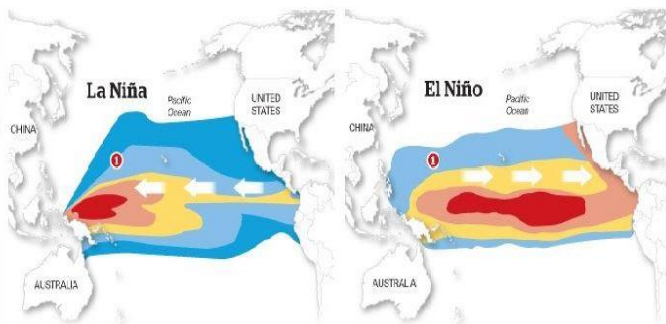
Environment & Diversity

Is La Nina a fair weather friend of our country?

This year the La Nina is being blamed for worsening the longest spell of heatwaves from March to April in north, west and Central India.

In most years, meteorologists considered the La Nina to be a friend of India.

What is El Nino and La Nina?



- While El Nio (Spanish for 'little boy') is the more prevalent word, it refers to abnormal surface warming in the Pacific Ocean's eastern and central areas (the region between Peru and Papua New Guinea).
- The La Nia (Spanish meaning "little girl") is a cooling of the surface waters that is unusual.
- The El Nio Southern Oscillation is the combination of the El Nio (Warm Phase) and La Nia (Cool Phase) occurrences (ENSO).
- These are large-scale ocean phenomena that have an impact on global weather, including winds, temperature, and rainfall. They have the power to cause extreme weather events like as

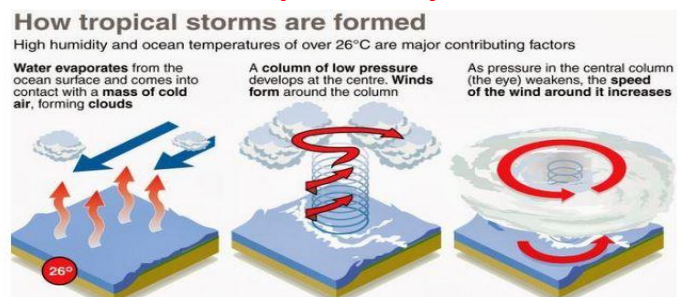
droughts, floods, and extreme heat and cold conditions all over the world.

- Each cycle can last anywhere from 9 to 12 months, with some cycles lasting up to 18 months, and they recur every three to five years.
- Along this equatorial belt, meteorologists record sea surface temperatures for four different zones known as Nio regions.
- They predict an El Nio, an ENSO neutral phase, or a La Nia depending on the temperatures.

Impact on India

- During the winter, El Nino brings mild conditions over the Indian subcontinent, but in the summer, it causes dry conditions and a lack of monsoon.
- In India, however, La Nina resulted in a better-than-normal monsoon.
- The Indian summer monsoon has been proven to be a fully connected land-atmosphere-ocean system that is linked to ocean temperature variability.
- The considerable divergence from regular seasonal rainfall in an agricultural country like India has a significant impact on agricultural output and, as a result, the country's economy.

In news: Tropical Cyclone Asani



Severe cyclonic storm 'Asani', packing winds above 105 kmph and setting off heavy rain, is likely to make landfall on the eastern coast of India.

What are tropical Cyclones?

- A tropical cyclone is a powerful circular storm that forms over warm tropical oceans and is marked by low air pressure, strong winds, and heavy rainfall.
- Over slightly warm ocean waters, cyclones form. To encourage the formation of a cyclone, the temperature of the top layer of the sea, up to a depth of about 60 metres, must be at least 28°C.
- This explains why cyclones thrive in the months of April-May and October-December.
- The low level of air above the seas must therefore rotate in a 'anticlockwise' direction (in the northern hemisphere; clockwise in the southern hemisphere).
- During these times, an ITCZ exists in the Bay of Bengal, with winds blowing from west to east on the southern edge and east to west on the northern boundary.
- Cyclones in this area normally head northwest once they form. The cyclone takes more moist air from the warm water as it passes across the sea, adding to its weight.

Requirements for a Cyclone to form

There are six main requirements for tropical cyclogenesis:

- Sufficiently warm sea surface temperatures
- Atmospheric instability
- High humidity in the lower to middle levels of the troposphere
- Enough Coriolis force to develop a low-pressure centre

- A pre-existing low-level focus or disturbance
- Low vertical wind shear

How are the cyclones named?

- The World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (WMO/ESCAP) decided to name cyclones in 2000.
- Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Thailand formed a group that decided to begin naming cyclones in the region.
- The WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) finalised the list after each country submitted comments.
- In 2018, the WMO/ESCAP added five more nations to its membership: Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Why is it important to name cyclones?

- Using names for cyclones instead of numbers and technical words makes it easier for people to recall.
- Saying "Cyclone Titli" is easier and less complicated than remembering the storm's number or longitude and latitude.
- It assists the scientific community, the media, disaster management, and others, in addition to the general public.
- Individual cyclones can also be identified by their names, which makes it easier to raise awareness about their progress, quickly communicate warnings to boost community readiness, and so forth.

Highlights of State of the World's Birds Report

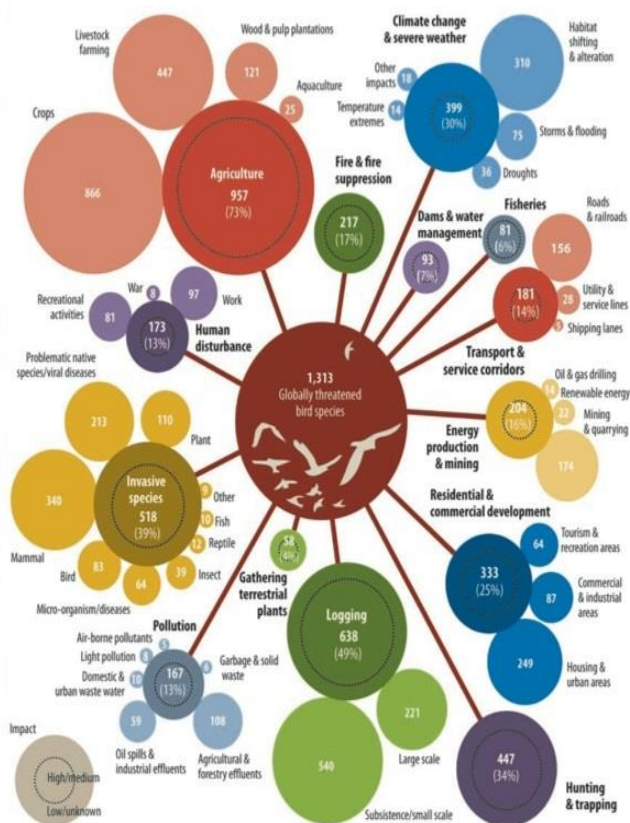
The State of the World's Birds, an annual review of environmental resources has revealed that the population of 48% of the 10,994 surviving species of birds is declining.

State of the World's Birds

- Manchester Metropolitan University is the publisher of the report.
- It provides an overview of how our understanding of bird biodiversity has evolved, as well as the extent to which it is threatened.
- The research is based on BirdLife International's most recent evaluation of all birds for the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

What are the key findings of the study?

A range of threats is driving declines in globally threatened birds



- The survey discovered that 5,245 bird species, or around 48% of all current bird species, are known or suspected to be experiencing population decreases.
- While 4,295 species (or 39%) have steady population patterns, roughly 7% (or 778 species) have growing population trends.
- It demonstrates that 1,481 species, or 13.5 percent, are currently threatened with extinction around the world.

Where the birds are threatened the most?

- Tropical latitudes have more vulnerable bird species (86.4%) than temperate latitudes (31.7 percent).
- The tropical Andes, southeast Brazil, the eastern Himalayas, eastern Madagascar, and Southeast Asian islands are also hotspots.

What is the importance of birds to ecosystems and culture?

- Birds contribute to a variety of environmental services that help mankind directly or indirectly.
- Provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services are among them.
- Pollinators, seed-dispersers, ecosystem engineers, scavengers, and predators all play important roles in ecosystems.
- They not only help to increase and maintain biodiversity, but they also aid in the reproduction of other species and support human endeavours such as sustainable agriculture through pest management.
- In the Chagos archipelago, for example, coral reef fish output has been found to rise as seabird populations rebound following rat removal.

- Food from wild birds and items generated from them is also important economically (meat, eggs).

What are the threats contributing to avian biodiversity loss?

- Land cover and land-use change are the top two criteria on the list, according to the report.
- Continued population increase and rising per capita consumption rates result in the conversion and deterioration of primary natural areas.
- In areas of the global North, deforestation has been driven by afforestation with plantations (often of non-native species) and land abandonment, with net loss in the tropics.
- Habitat fragmentation, degradation, poaching, and trapping are the other culprits.

Green Manure and its productivity benefits



The Punjab agriculture department is promoting the cultivation of green manure these days.

What is the news?

- Punjab Agro is subsidising seed at a rate of Rs 2,000 per quintal, which would otherwise cost Rs 6,300 per quintal.
- Farmers can get the seed via the agriculture department's block level offices because stock is restricted.

What is Green Manure?

- Green manures are crops that are planted for the purpose of preserving soil fertility and structure.
- It's accomplished by leaving uprooted or sowed crop pieces on the field to wither and serve as mulch and soil fertiliser.
- They are usually returned to the soil, either immediately or after being removed and composted.
- Green manure is divided into three types: organic, inorganic, and organic-inorganic.
 1. Dhaincha
 2. Cowpea
 3. Sunhemp
- Also some crops such as summer moong, mash pulses and guar act as green manure.
- They can be sown after wheat cultivation

Characteristics of green manure

- Green manure must be leguminous in nature
- They must bear maximum nodules on its roots to fix large amount of atmospheric nitrogen in the soil

Why is sowing of green manure important in Punjab?

- Punjab has one of the highest fertiliser usage rates in the country, at roughly 244 kg per hectare, and is also higher than the national average.
- Growing green manure can reduce this consumption by as much as 25% to 30%, saving farmers a significant amount of money in input costs.
- In Punjab, high-intensity agricultural methods are common, with farmers planting two to three crops each year, necessitating the use of a lot of chemical fertilisers like urea and DAP.
- As a result, micronutrient shortages such as iron and zinc develop, particularly in rice-growing soils, lowering production.
- Green manuring is beneficial in this case because it improves soil health and increases crop output.

How does it benefit the soil and crop?

- Green manure improves soil organic matter, addresses micronutrient deficiencies, and lowers the use of inorganic fertilisers, among other things.
- It's a fantastic substitute for organic manure since it conserves nutrients, increases nitrogen, and improves soil structure.
- It quickly decomposes, releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide and weak acids that act on insoluble soil minerals to release nutrients for plant growth.
- It also contains 15 to 18 quintals of dry matter per acre, as well as phosphate, potassium, zinc, copper, iron, and manganese, and 20 to 40 kilogrammes of nitrogen per acre.
- Green manure crops are chosen by farmers because they naturally decrease weed development.

- Improved top-soil stability helps to avoid soil erosion. By increasing soil porosity and aeration, this aids in the improvement of overall soil structure.

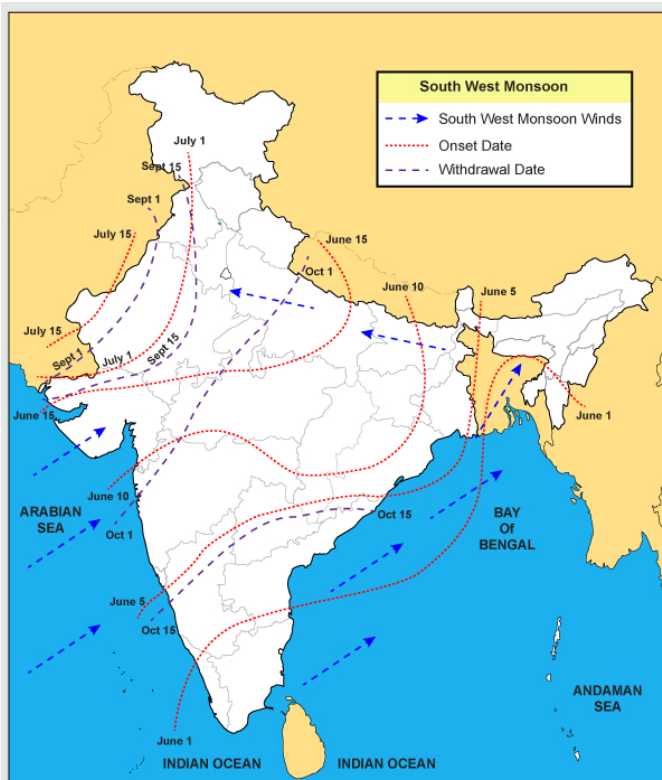
Limitations of green manure

- Excessive application of green manure can lead to nitrogen and phosphorus overfixation in the soil, rendering it poisonous and causing nutrient pollution.
- Green manure crops may prove to be too expensive for farmers, causing them to produce fewer cultivated crops in order to plant green manure crops.
- During the manure period, farmers will not be able to plant their marketable cash crop since they may prefer to boost land fertility rather than plant crops.
- Green manure crops may compete with the crops that will be the principal source of income on occasion.

Various policy initiatives

- The government provides 50 percent cost support for the distribution of green manure required for a one-acre area per farmer under the Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP).
- PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) accreditation supports cluster-based organic farming through the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

Monsoon sets in over Kerala



The monsoon has reached Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

What does the “Onset of Monsoon” mean?

- The monsoon's arrival in Kerala marks the start of the four-month southwest monsoon season in India, which runs from June to September.
- It is responsible for more than 70% of the country's annual rainfall. In India's economic calendar, this is a key day.
- Only after certain newly specified and measurable standards, implemented in 2016, are met, can IMD make the announcement.
- In general, the IMD looks for rainfall uniformity, intensity, and wind speed across a specific area.

(1) Rainfall

- If at least 60% of 14 authorised meteorological stations in Kerala and Lakshadweep report rain, the IMD announces the monsoon has begun.
- Minicoy, Amini, Thiruvananthapuram, Punalur, Kollam, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Thalassery, Kannur, Kasaragod, and Mangaluru are among the 14 enlisted stations.
- After May 10, it receives at least 2.5 mm of rain for two consecutive days.
- In this case, the onset over Kerala is announced on the second day, assuming that certain wind and temperature parameters are met.

(2) Wind field

- In the area bounded by the equator to 10oN latitude, and from longitude 55oE to 80oE, the depth of westerlies should be up to 600 hectopascal (1 hPa equals 1 millibar of pressure).
- At 925 hPa, the zonal wind speed should be in the range of 15-20 knots (28-37 kph) over the area confined by 5-10oN latitude and 70-80oE longitude.

(3) Heat

- The INSAT-derived Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) value (a measure of the energy sent to space by the Earth's surface, oceans, and atmosphere) should be less than 200 watts per square metre, according to IMD (wm2).
- This is measured within a box defined by latitudes of 5-10oN and 70-75oE.

Is it unusual for the monsoon to hit the Kerala coast early?

- It is not rare for the monsoon to arrive early or late.
- The onset over Kerala in 2018 and 2017 was on May 29 and May 30, respectively.

- In 2010, the first day of the year was observed on May 31.
- In both 2020 and 2013, the monsoon arrived on schedule, on June 1st, on the Kerala coast.

Does an early onset foretell a good monsoon?

- No, just as a delay does not necessarily indicate a bad monsoon.
- The onset is a natural occurrence that occurs as the monsoon moves across the Indian subcontinent.
- The quality or volume of rainfall is unaffected by a few days of delay, or by the monsoon arriving a few days early.

How does the monsoon spread across the country after hitting Kerala coast?

- The monsoon's northward march when it hits the Kerala coast is influenced by a variety of local conditions, including the formation of low pressure zones.
- Despite the fact that the monsoon has arrived early this year in Kerala, it is feasible that other sections of the country may receive rain on time.
- By July 15, the monsoon has spread across the entire country after originating in Kerala.

Governance

Autism Support Network to give Specialised Care in Rural India



The Centre for Autism and Other Disabilities Rehabilitation Research and Education (CADRRE), a not-for-profit organization will launch **“Pay Attention — a different mind is a gifted mind”**, India’s first bridgital autism support network.

Pay ‘Attention’

- Small towns and rural India will be able to obtain specialised treatment and support as a result of the programme, which will also help to establish an auxiliary network of champions for the differently-abled.
- People with autism will be able to get mentoring, skill development, and meaningful employment through this platform.
- The initiative's first phase will primarily focus on assisting children with autism, while the initiative's second stage will empower young adults with life skills and vocational preparedness.
- The programme was created and provided in partnership with CADRRE specialists that specialise in instructing autistic youngsters.

- The project's goals are to build a network of grassroots champions, enabling early detection and first-level care, teach social skills and techniques to make daily activities easier, and offer sensory and motor development workshops.
- Art and craft, dancing, music therapy, physical and mental fitness, communication skills, and academic help are among the topics covered.

What is Autism?

- Autism, often known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is a complex illness characterised by communication and behavioural issues.
- It can manifest itself in a wide range of symptoms and abilities.
- ASD might be a small issue or a severe condition that necessitates full-time care in a facility.
- Communication is difficult for people with autism. They have a hard time comprehending what other people are thinking and feeling.
- This makes it difficult for individuals to communicate, whether through words, gestures, facial expressions, or touch.
- Learning difficulties may be a difficulty for people with autism. Their abilities may develop in a haphazard manner.
- For example, someone may struggle with communication yet excel at painting, music, arithmetic, or memory.

What are the signs of Autism?

Symptoms of autism usually appear before a child turns 3. Some people show signs from birth. Common symptoms of autism include:

- Inability to make eye contact

- A limited range of interests or a strong desire to learn more about a specific topic
- Repeating something, such as repeating words or phrases, rocking back and forth, or flipping a lever, over and over.
- High sensitivity to sounds, sensations, scents, or sights that most people consider normal
- I'm not looking at or listening to anyone else.
- When someone points something out to you, you don't look at it.
- reluctance to be hugged or cuddled
- Speech, gestures, facial expressions, or voice tone are difficult to interpret or use.
- Using a sing-song, flat, or robotic tone of voice
- Having difficulty adjusting to changes in routine

What causes Autism?

- The exact cause of autism is unknown. Problems in the areas of your brain that evaluate sensory data and process language could be to blame.
- Boys are four times as likely than girls to have autism. It can affect persons of any race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.
- A child's risk of autism is unaffected by family income, lifestyle, or educational level. However, there are some dangers:
 1. Because autism runs in families, certain genetic combinations may raise a child's risk.
 2. Autism is more likely in a child who has an older parent.
 3. Pregnant women who are exposed to particular medicines or chemicals during their pregnancy, such as alcohol or anti-seizure medications, are more likely to give birth to autistic children.

- Maternal metabolic disorders such as diabetes and obesity are also risk factors.

Prevalence of Autism in India

- Autism prevalence and incidence figures in India are 1 in 500 or 0.20 percent of the population, or more than 2,160,000 people.
- According to a survey, three million persons on the Indian subcontinent suffer from autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI)



A project called the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) finds that nearly 23% out of 2.1 million Indians have uncontrolled blood pressure.

What is the IHCI?

- Recognizing that hypertension is a severe and growing health problem in India, the Health Ministry, the ICMR, state governments, and WHO-India launched a five-year project to track and treat the condition.
- The programme began in November of 2017.
- IHCI covered 26 districts in five states in its first year: Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra.
- IHCI had grown to 52 districts in eleven states by December 2020, including Andhra Pradesh (1), Chhattisgarh (2), Karnataka (2), Kerala (4),

Madhya Pradesh (6), Maharashtra (13), Punjab (5), Tamil Nadu (1), Telangana (13) and West Bengal (5).

What is Hypertension?

- A systolic blood pressure of greater than or equal to 140 mmHg, or a diastolic blood pressure of greater than or equal to 90 mmHg, is considered hypertension.
- The term also assumes that he or she is using anti-hypertensive medication to control blood pressure.

Why need IHCI?

- India has set a goal of reducing premature mortality attributable to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by 25% by 2025, dubbed "25 by 25."
- To meet India's 25% objective, an additional 4.5 crore people with hypertension will need to have their blood pressure under control by 2025.

What has the IHCI found so far?

- The most significant finding so far is that nearly a quarter of patients in the programme (23 percent) had uncontrolled blood pressure, and 27% did not return for a follow-up in the first quarter of 2021.
- In the country, there were an estimated 20 crore adults having hypertension.
- In numerous health facilities, there were insufficient verified high-quality digital blood pressure monitors, affecting the accuracy of hypertension diagnosis.

How prevalent is the problem of hypertension?

- Hypertension affects about one-fourth of women and men aged 40 to 49 years.

- According to the most recent edition of the National Family Health Survey, Southern states have a greater prevalence of hypertension than the national average.
- While hypertension affects 21.3 percent of women and 24 percent of men over the age of 15, the prevalence is highest in Kerala, where 32.8 percent of men and 30.9 percent of women have been diagnosed.
- Kerala is followed by Telangana, where men have a frequency of 31.4 percent and women have a prevalence of 26.1 percent.

AKRUTI Program to start in Kudankulam



The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited is all set to launch AKRUTI programme in the villages surrounding Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP).

AKRUTI Program

- AKRUTI is a programme run by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited to help unemployed youth living near the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS).
- The Advanced Knowledge and Rural Technology Implementation (AKRUTI) programme is an acronym for Advanced Knowledge and Rural Technology Implementation.
- The AKRUTI initiative covers rural communities in the fields of water, food processing, agriculture, and waste management.
- The initiative intends to empower villages by deploying various technologies for their use.
- This strategy will lead to sustained expansion of the rural sector across the country.

What is the objective?

- To provide information and mechanism for implementation of BARC technologies in rural areas thereby aiming at overall rural development.

History

Rakhigarhi skeletons' DNA samples sent for analysis



- There are seven mounds in this area.
- The site, which is by far one of the greatest Harappan sites in India, has given numerous periods of Harappan culture.
- The site depicts the Indus culture's progressive growth in the now-dry Saraswati basin.

Major findings at Rakhigarhi

- The discovery of 4,600-year-old human remains, fortification, and bricks confirms both early and mature Harappan stages.
- So far, digging has revealed a well-planned city with roadways that are 1.92 metres wide, slightly broader than in Kalibangan.
- Similar to Kalibangan and Banawali ceramics.
- Pits with walls around them have been discovered, which are thought to be used for sacrificial or religious events.
- The sewage from the houses is handled by brick-lined sewers.
- Also discovered were terracotta figures, weights, bronze objects, a comb, copper fish hooks, needles, and terracotta seals.
- A bronze jar with gold and silver decorations has been discovered.
- Here, a Harappan granary from the mature phase has been discovered.
- In Rakhigarhi, structures for fire altars were discovered.

DNA samples collected from two human skeletons unearthed at a necropolis of a Harappan-era city site in Rakhigarhi, Haryana have been sent for scientific examination.

Why in news?

- DNA analysis might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.

About Rakhigarhi

- Rakhigarhi is the name given to the ancient sites of Rakhi-Khas and Rakhi-Shahpur, which are both located on the right bank of the now-drying Palaeo-channel of Drishadvati.
- It's in the Hissar district of Haryana, on the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain.

Places in news: Martand Sun Temple



After Prayers held at the ruins of the eighth-century Martand Sun Temple in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag is deemed to be a violation of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) rules.

About Martand Sun Temple

- The Martand Sun Temple is a Hindu temple in the Kashmir Valley, near the city of Anantnag.
- It was dedicated to Surya, the primary solar deity, and dated from the seventh century AD.
- Sikandar Shah Miri demolished the temple in an attempt to convert and execute Hindus in the valley in large numbers.
- According to Kalhana, Lalitaditya Muktapida commissioned the Temple in the seventh century AD.
- The temple is situated on a plateau with a panoramic view of the Kashmir Valley.
- The visible architecture in the remains appears to be a mix of Gandharan, Gupta, and Chinese architectural styles.

Why in news now?

- Prayers are only permitted in ASI-protected sites if they were "functioning places of worship" at the time it was taken over.
- Religious rites are not permitted at non-living monuments where there was no continuity of worship at the time the site was designated as an ASI-protected site.

What are the living/non-living monument?

- If a structure has been used for years for some form of activity, such as worship, it is designated as a living monument.
- However, where there has been no activity, such as an abandoned building, it is designated as a dead monument.
- Because it is usually covered by a lot of overgrowths, the latter is tough to recover.
- The Taj Mahal in Agra, where namaz is held every Friday, is the most well-known example of a living ASI monument.

Iron in Tamil Nadu 4,200 years ago: A new dating and its significance



Carbon dating of excavated finds in Tamil Nadu pushes evidence of iron being used in India back to 4,200 years

ago, the Tamil Nadu government announced this week on the basis of an archaeological report.

What is the news?

- Prior to this, the country's earliest evidence of iron use is from 1900-2000 BCE, while Tamil Nadu's dates from 1500 BCE.
- The most recent evidence dates the discoveries to 2172 BCE in Tamil Nadu! It's a lot older.
- Accelerator mass spectroscopy was utilised to determine the dating results.

Where were these objects found?

- Mayiladumparai, near Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu, lies roughly 100 kilometres south of Bengaluru.
- Mayiladumparai is a significant archaeological site containing artefacts spanning from the Microlithic (30,000 BCE) to the Early Historic (600 BCE) periods.
- Togarapalli, Gangavaram, Sandur, Vedarhattakkal, Guttur, Gidlur, Sappamutlu, and Kappalavadi are only a few of the archaeological sites nearby.

Outcome: Varying span of Iron Age

- The dates when humans entered the Iron Age vary from one region of the world to another.
- In India, too, the date has been revised with successive findings over the decades.

When the Iron Age is considered in India?

- Iron was first used in Rajasthan approximately 1300 BCE, according to a 1979 study. This is what the NCERTs have taught us.
- Later, samples found in Bukkasagara, Karnataka, were dated to 1530 BCE, showing iron manufacturing.

- Excavations in Raipura, in the Mid-Ganga valley, revealed traces of iron smelting, which pushed the date back to 1700-1800 BCE.
- Based on excavations in Malhar near Varanasi and Brahmagiri in North Karnataka, it was then dated to 1900-2000 BCE.
- Iron-ore technology was evident before 1800 BCE, according to a series of dating results on discoveries from various locations of India.
- Prior to this finding, the earliest evidence of iron use in Tamil Nadu was found in Thelunganur and Mangadu near Mettur in 1500 BCE.

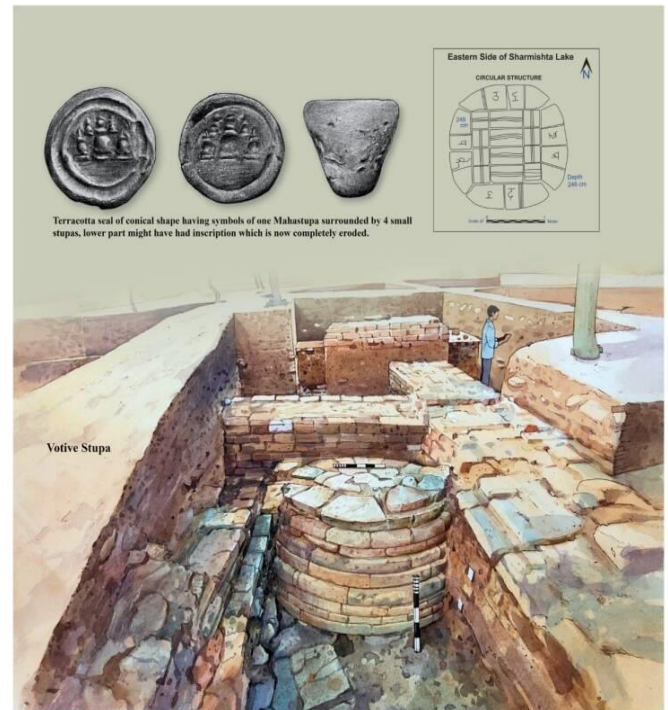
Historical significance

- Iron is not known to have been used in the Indus Valley, where copper is thought to have originated in India (1500 BCE).
- Other regions, however, were compelled to remain in the Stone Age due to a lack of copper for technological and industrial exploitation.
- When iron technology was established, it paved the way for the creation of agricultural equipment and weaponry, paving the way for a civilisation that was ahead of its time in terms of economic and cultural advancement.
- Copper tools were useful, but they were fragile and not as strong as iron ones would be.
- We can assume that our cultural seeds were planted in 2000 BCE, based on the latest evidence tracing our Iron Age from 1500 BC to 2000 BCE.
- Around 600 BCE, the Tamil Brahmi scripts arose as a result of socio-economic transformations and huge production prompted by iron technology.

Culture and politics

- The origins of the Tamil Brahmi letters were formerly thought to be around 300 BCE, until a significant discovery in 2019 moved the period back to 600 BCE.
- The gap between the Indus Valley civilisation and Tamilagam/South India's Sangam Age was shortened as a result of this dating.
- This, together with the most recent findings, has political ramifications.
- The ASI's decision not to conduct advanced carbon dating studies on the writings, which were based on discoveries from sites like as Keeladi near Madurai, sparked controversy.

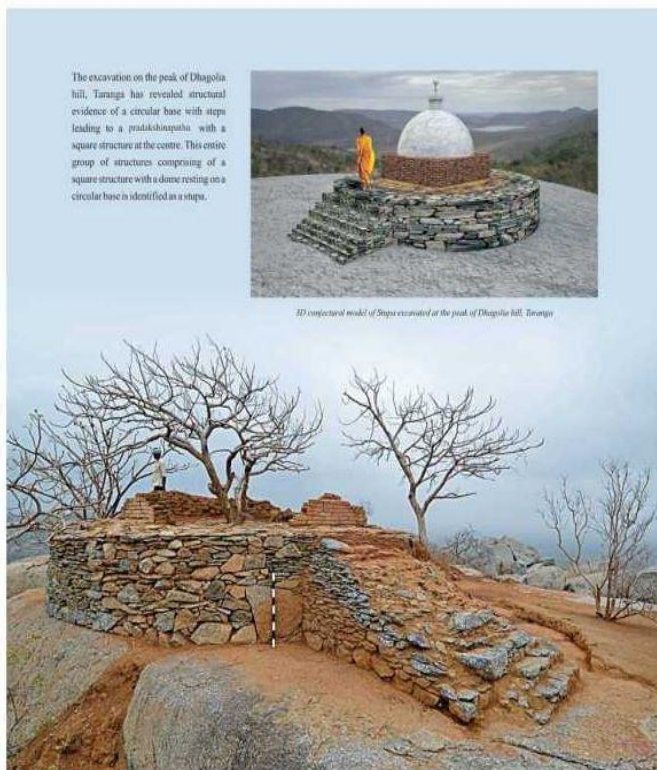
Vadnagar's ties with Buddhism



- Excavation efforts began in 2014, yielding Buddhist relics and 20,000 items, some dating back to the 2nd century.
- An oval building and a round stupa, as well as a square memorial stupa measuring 22 metres by 130 centimetres with a wall enclosure, are among them.
- It resembles a platform with a central chamber that resembles a pradakshina route.
- During the excavations, monks' bowls with a clay sealing with inscriptions of namassarvagya and a face-shaped pendant with the triratna symbol were also discovered.
- Sacred Buddha relics have even been discovered in Devni Mori, Gujarat's Aravalli district.

In travellers record

Buddhist heritage in Gujarat



Prime Minister in Lumbini, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, said that his birthplace Vadnagar in Gujarat's Mehsana district had been a great centre for Buddhist learning centuries ago.

- Vadnagar is described as a rich and prospering town in the Puranas and even in the itinerary of the great Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang (7th century).
- In 641 AD, he is said to have visited the state.
- Chamatkarpur, Anandpur, Snehpur, and Vimalpur are among the names attributed to Vadnagar throughout history.
- It also included information about Buddhist heritage sites in Gujarat, including Junagadh, Kutch, and Bharuch.

Qutub Minar not a Place of Worship: ASI



The Qutub Minar complex is not a place of worship and its character cannot be changed now, the Archaeological Survey of India submitted in a Delhi Court while opposing a plea challenging the dismissal of a civil suit seeking “restoration” of temples on the premises.

What is the case?

- According to the initial lawsuit, 27 temples were demolished in order to construct the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque at the Qutub Minar complex.
- Last year, under the provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, this claim was dismissed.
- The order has now been reserved by the Additional District Judge (ADJ).
- The dismissal of the initial claim based on the 1991 Act, according to the petitioner, was incorrect.
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act of 1958 applies to the Qutub Minar complex.

Why in news now?

- The ASI now claims that when the Qutub Minar complex was first designated as a protected monument in 1914, it was not a place of worship.
- According to the ASI, the nature of a monument is determined by the date it is placed under protection.

About Qutub Minar

- The Qutub Minar is a minaret and "victory tower" that is part of the Qutub complex, which is located on the site of Lal Kot, Delhi's earliest fortified city constructed by the Tomar Rajputs.
- It is located in the Mehrauli neighbourhood of South Delhi and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It can be likened to the 62-metre all-brick Minaret of Jam in Afghanistan, which was built in 1190, a decade or so before the Delhi tower's likely start.
- Both have intricately decorated surfaces with inscriptions and geometric motifs.

- At the summit of each stage, the Qutb Minar includes a fluted shaft with "superb stalactite bracketing under the balconies."

Its construction

- The Qutb Minar was built on top of the ruins of Dhillika's stronghold, the Lal Kot.
- Qutub Minar was built after Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the first king of the Delhi Sultanate, completed the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque in 1192.
- The tower is supposed to be named after Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the man who built it.

- Because Shamsuddin Iltutmish was a devotee of Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, a 13th-century sufi saint, it's also plausible that it's named after him.
- Qutub-ud-Din Aibak built the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque to the north-east of the Minar in 1198.
- It comprises of a rectangular courtyard surrounded by cloisters that were built from the carved columns and architectural elements of 27 Jain and Hindu temples that Qutub-ud-Din demolished.
- His inscription on the main eastern entrance attests to this.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Russia officially quits the International Space Station (ISS)



Russia is responding to the Western sanctions. It has decided to walk out of the International Space Station.

International Space Station

- The International Space Station (ISS) was launched in 1998 as a result of collaboration between the United States, Russia, Japan, Canada, and Europe.

- Former US President Ronald Reagan proposed the notion of a space station in his State of the Union address in 1984.
- The space station has been in operation in low-earth orbit for many years.
- It has operated as a suspended laboratory in space since its creation, assisting several scientific and technical advancements.
- The International Space Station was designed to last 15 years.

Why was ISS launched?

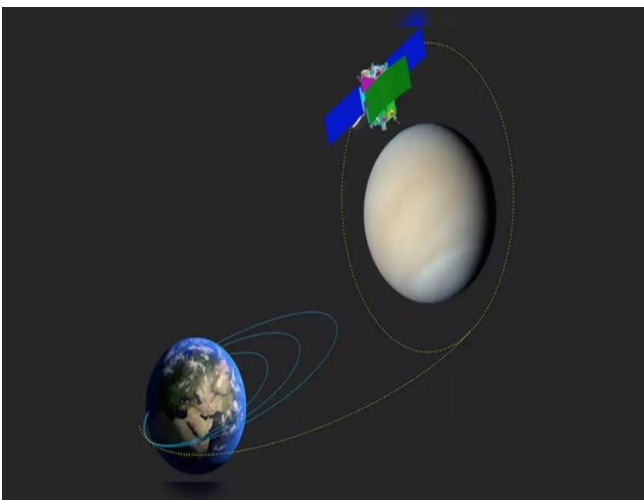
- A space station allows for quantum leaps in science, communications, metals, and life-saving medications that could only be produced in space.
- For the past 21 years, astronauts have been stationed aboard the International Space Station (ISS), which has provided them with cutting-edge technology for scientific research.

What is Russia's role in maintaining the ISS?

- The Multinational Space Station (ISS) is being developed with the help of scientists from five international space agencies: NASA, Roscosmos, JAXA, the Canadian Space Agency, and the European Space Agency.
- Every agency has a role to play and a stake in the ISS's upkeep.
- It is not a task that a single country can support in terms of both cost and effort.
- The module responsible for performing course corrections to the ISS's orbit is part of Russia's contribution to the partnership.
- They also transport astronauts to and from the International Space Station.
- Russian spacecraft were the sole option to reach the ISS and return until SpaceX's dragon spacecraft entered the picture.

- Venus is Earth's nearest planetary neighbour and is the second planet from the Sun.
- It's one of the four inner terrestrial (or rocky) planets, and because of its size and density, it's often referred to as Earth's twin.
- Venus has a dense, toxic atmosphere packed with carbon dioxide, as well as thick, yellowish clouds of sulphuric acid that trap heat and cause a runaway greenhouse effect.
- Despite its proximity to the Sun, Mercury is the hottest planet in our solar system.
- On Venus, the surface temperature is around 900 degrees Fahrenheit (475 degrees Celsius), which is hot enough to melt lead.
- At its surface, Venus possesses crushing air pressure - more than 90 times that of Earth – similar to the pressure found a mile beneath the ocean on Earth.

ISRO's goal for Venus Mission



India's Venus mission has been conceived. The project report for 'Shukrayaan-I' – the name given to ISRO's Venus mission, is ready and the budget has also been identified for it.

About Venus

What is Shukrayaan-I Mission?

- After dispatching similar missions to the Moon and Mars, Shukrayaan will be India's first orbiter mission to Venus.
- The mission's goal is to investigate the surface of our solar system's hottest planet and decipher the mysteries hidden beneath the Sulphuric Acid clouds that surround it.
- The orbiter is the third mission to Venus, following NASA's announcement of two probes and the European Space Agency's announcement of a spacecraft.
- The probes will travel the globe in search of clues to the destructive past of Earth's strange twin, which scientists believe previously had massive water reserves akin to our own.

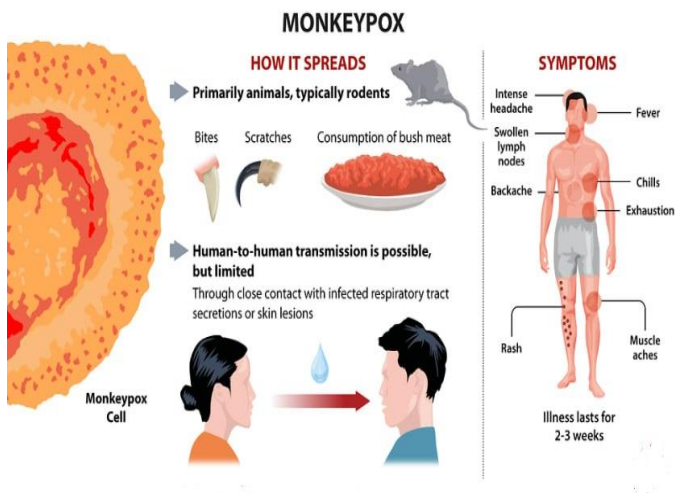
Stated objectives

- Surface processes and shallow subsurface stratigraphy, including active volcanic hotspots and lava flows, are being investigated.
- Studying the atmosphere's structure, composition, and dynamics
- Investigation of the interaction of the solar wind with the Venusian ionosphere

Delay with the launch

- The ISRO plans to launch in December 2024, with orbital manoeuvres scheduled for the following year.
- This is when the orbits of Earth and Venus are so lined that the spacecraft may be placed in the orbit of the neighbouring planet with the least amount of propellant.
- In 2031, a comparable window will be available.

What is Monkeypox?



The UK health authorities have confirmed a case of Monkeypox, which is a virus passed from infected animals such as rodents to humans, in someone with a recent travel history to Nigeria where they are believed to have caught it.

What is Monkeypox?

- The monkeypox virus belongs to the orthopoxvirus family, which includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox, and the vaccinia virus, which was used in the smallpox vaccine.
- It has symptoms that are comparable to smallpox but are less severe.
- While smallpox was eradicated worldwide in 1980 due to vaccination, monkeypox still exists in a number of nations in Central and West Africa, as well as in other parts of the world.
- Two separate clades have been identified, according to the WHO: the West African clade and the Congo Basin clade, commonly known as the Central African clade.

Its origin

- Monkeypox is a zoonotic illness, meaning it is spread from sick animals to people.
- Squirrels, Gambian poached rats, dormice, and various monkey species have all been shown to be infected with the monkeypox virus.
- Cases have been reported near tropical rainforests populated by virus-carrying animals, according to the WHO.

Symptoms and treatment

- Fever, headache, muscle aches, back soreness, and tiredness are all symptoms of monkeypox.
- It also causes lymphadenopathy (swelling of the lymph nodes), which smallpox does not.
- The World Health Organization emphasises the need of distinguishing monkeypox from chickenpox, measles, bacterial skin infections, scabies, syphilis, and medication-related allergies.
- Monkeypox has a 7-14 day incubation period (the time between infection and onset of

symptoms), however it can be anywhere between 5 and 21 days.

- There is currently no safe and effective treatment for monkeypox.

What is INSACOG?



The PM has announced that the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) would be extended to India's neighbouring countries.

What is INSACOG?

- INSACOG was established in December 2020 as a joint initiative of the Union Health Ministry of Health and Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- It aims to expand the whole-genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes the Covid-19 disease, across India with the aim of understanding how the virus spreads and evolves.
- It functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology with the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Composition of INSACOG

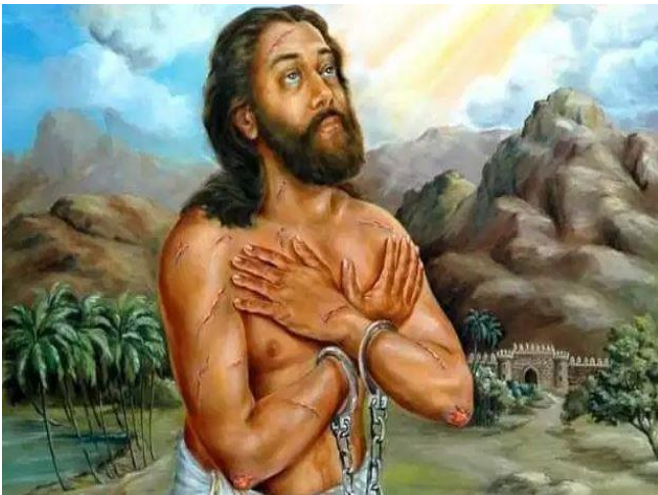
- INSACOG started out with the participation of 10 national research laboratories of the central government, and gradually expanded to a network of 38 labs.

- It now includes private labs operating on a hub-and-spoke model.
- These works to monitor genomic variations in SARS-CoV-2 by a sentinel sequencing effort which is facilitated by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).
- It now involves the Central Surveillance Unit (CSU) under the central government's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).

Working of the INSACOG

- The data from the genome sequencing laboratories is analysed as per the field data trends to study the linkages, if any, between the genomic variants and epidemiological trends.
- INSACOG helps to understand super spreader events and outbreaks, and strengthen public health interventions across the country to help break chains of transmission.
- Linking this data with IDSP data and the patient's symptoms helps to better understand viral infection dynamics, and trends of morbidity and mortality.
- The data can be linked with host genomics, immunology, clinical outcomes, and risk factors for a more comprehensive outlook.
- Sequencing assumes added significance as the incidence of reinfections and vaccine breakthroughs increases.

Devasahayam Pillai: first Indian layman to be declared a Saint by Vatican



Pope Francis canonised Devasahayam Pillai as a Catholic Saint during an event in St Peter's Basilica.

Who was Devasahayam Pillai?

- Devasahayam was born on April 23, 1712, in Nattalam village, Kanyakumari district, and later served in the Travancore court of Marthanda Varma.
- Devasahayam was baptised in 1745 after meeting a Dutch naval officer at the court and given the name 'Lazarus,' which means 'God is my assistance.'

His works

- During his sermons, he emphasised the equality of all individuals, regardless of caste inequalities.
- His conversion did not sit well with the religious leaders of his homeland.
- False charges of treason and espionage were filed against him and he was dispossessed of his place in the royal administration.
- Devasahayam was killed in the Aralvaimozhy forest on January 14, 1752.
- His lifeless bones were interred inside what is now Saint Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Kottar,

Nagercoil, and he has been popularly regarded as a martyr since then.

Other canonized saints in India

- Gonsalo Garcia, who was born in India to Portuguese parents in Mumbai in 1557, is regarded the first India-born saint.
- Sister Alphonsa, a Kerala native, was named the first woman Catholic saint from India in 2008.
- When Mother Teresa was canonised in 2016, she had a quick path to sainthood.

RNA granules to treat neurodegenerative disorders

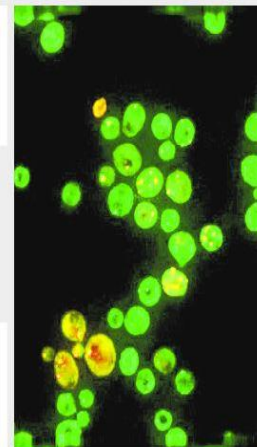
A protein to dissolve aggregates in the neurons

Knowledge obtained from yeast is very often applicable to humans

■ Researchers at IISc Bangalore have identified a protein in yeast cells that dissolves RNA-protein complexes, also known as RNA granules

■ This finding is critical for many neurodegenerative disorders such as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)

■ These neurodegenerative disorders are characterised by the accumulation of aggregates that resemble RNA granules. These aggregates are believed to contribute to the disease



Naked: Unlike other structures in the cell, the RNA granules are not covered and confined by a membrane.

■ In yeast cells, a protein (Sbp1) promotes the disintegration of RNA granules. The protein dissolves only the P-bodies

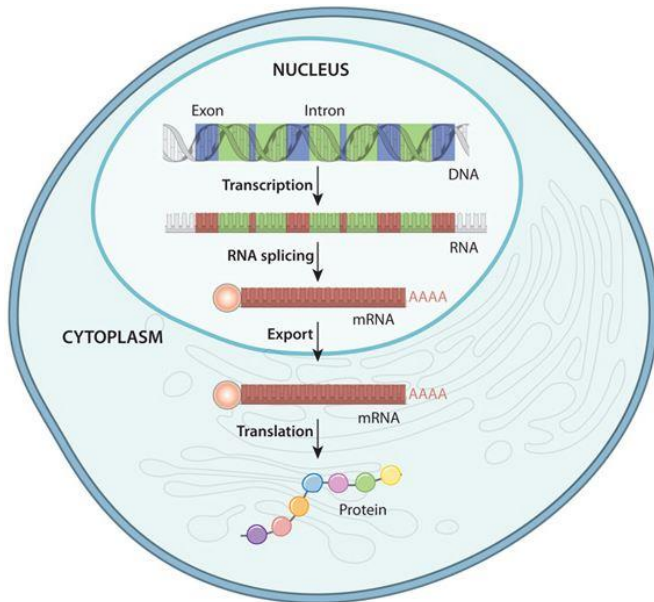
■ The study found that the Sbp1 protein helps in reducing the aggregates of human proteins involved in neurodegenerative disorders

■ The next step is to experimentally test the effect of repeat sequences in genetically engineered mice

■ This study once again suggests that knowledge obtained from yeast is very often applicable to humans

Researchers at IISc Bangalore have identified a protein in yeast cells that dissolves RNA-protein complexes, also known as RNA granules.

What is mRNA?



- A single-stranded RNA (Ribo Nucleic Acid) molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) is complementary to one of a gene's DNA strands.
- The mRNA is an RNA form of the gene that leaves the nucleus and travels to the cytoplasm, where it is translated into proteins.
- A ribosome runs along the mRNA during protein synthesis, scans its base sequence, and uses the genetic code to translate each three-base triplet, or codon, into its matching amino acid.

What are RNA granules?

- RNA granules are structures consisting of messenger RNA (mRNA) and proteins that can be found inside the cytoplasm of any cell.
- RNA granules, unlike other cell components (such as mitochondria), are not covered and contained by a membrane.
- This makes them highly dynamic in nature, allowing them to interchange components with the environment on a regular basis.
- Under normal circumstances, RNA granules are present in small numbers in the cytoplasm, but

their number and size increase under stressful conditions, such as illness.

Why are they unique?

- The existence of stretches containing repeats of particular amino acids is a characteristic trait of the RNA granule protein components that does not change from one organism to another (conserved).
- Low complexity regions are what these sections are called.
- The RGG sequence (arginine (R), glycine (G), and glycine (G)) is an example of a low-complexity sequence.

Functions of RNA granules

- The process of translation converts messenger RNAs into proteins (cell building components).
- The fate of messenger RNA (mRNA) is determined by RNA granules, which regulate when and how much protein is generated from mRNA.
- Protein synthesis is a multi-step and energy-expensive process.
- As a result, when cells are confronted with unfavourable conditions, one of their frequent strategies is to turn off protein creation and conserve energy in order to deal with the stress.
- RNA granules aid in the process of protein creation halting.
- Some RNA granule types (such as Processing bodies or P-bodies) govern protein creation while also assisting in the breakdown and removal of mRNAs, resulting in a reduction in protein output.

What is the recent study?

- Low complexity sequences, which generally encourage granule formation, increase the breakdown of RNA granules in yeast cells, according to the researchers.
- They discovered that the identified protein Sbp1 is only capable of dissolving P-bodies, not stress granules, a form of RNA granule found in the cytoplasm.

Significance of the study

- The potential of amino acid repeats (RGG) as a therapeutic intervention has been highlighted in this study.
- The findings could aid in determining the impact of repeat sequences on genetically modified mice that develop intractable pathogenic clumps in brain cells.
- This could aid in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

What is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)?



A team of scientists from Australia have found that babies at risk of the mysterious Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS, generally have low levels of an enzyme called butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) in their blood.

What is SIDS?

- The sudden and unexpected death of an otherwise healthy newborn under the age of one, usually while they are asleep, is known as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
- The majority of SIDS-related deaths occur in infants aged 1-4 months.
- According to the NHS website, parents can minimise the risk of SIDS by not smoking during pregnancy or after the baby is delivered, and making sure the baby sleeps on their back.
- It's been linked to problems in the portion of an infant's brain that governs breathing and waking up, according to some health professionals.

Prevalence of SIDS

- Thousands of children have died as a result of SIDS, commonly known as 'cot death.'
- Every year, approximately 3,400 babies in the United States die abruptly and unexpectedly.
- Meanwhile, some 200 similar deaths are reported each year in the United Kingdom.

What does the new study say?

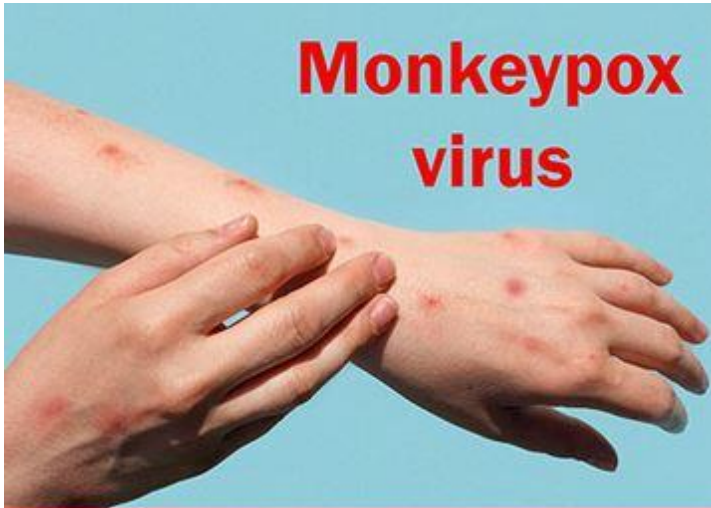
- The study evaluated if there was something essentially different in babies that succumbed to SIDS.
- Dry blood samples from 655 healthy babies, 26 babies who died of SIDS, and 41 babies who died of other causes were compared.
- The researchers discovered that nine out of 10 SIDS babies had lower levels of BChE enzymes than the babies in the other two groups.

What is the BChE (Butyrylcholinesterase) enzyme responsible for?

- These enzymes are in charge of transmitting signals to a newborn that cause her to wake up, turn her head, or gasp for air.

- It's a portion of the autonomic nervous system that regulates things like blood pressure and breathing.

Monkeypox Virus: Origins and Outbreaks



Everything You Need to Know About Monkeypox Virus

- Monkeypox is a rare viral disease similar to smallpox in appearance
- An infected animal transmits the virus to humans through a bite or direct contact
- Currently, there are 92 confirmed monkeypox cases in 12 countries
- Fever, muscle pain, headache, swollen lymph nodes, and tiredness are the initial signs
- Vaccination against smallpox can be effective in preventing monkeypox

With cases being reported from across the world, monkeypox has caught everyone's attention.

What is Monkeypox?

- The virus that causes monkeypox is not a novel one.
- The virus, which belongs to the poxvirus family, was discovered in monkeys for the first time in 1958, hence the name.
- In 1970, the Democratic Republic of Congo reported the first human case.
- In the past, there have been numerous rare epidemics of animal to human and human to human transmission in Central and West Africa, with high mortality.
- Monkeypox has become one of the most common poxviruses in people after smallpox was eradicated, with cases increasing with time and a corresponding decline in the age group affected.

How is it transmitted?

- Because transmission occurs primarily through close contact, epidemics have proved self-limiting in many circumstances.
- Asymptomatic individuals may unwittingly transmit the disease because the incubation period in the majority of infected people ranges from five to 21 days and is generally mild or self-limiting.
- Close contact with animals in areas next to forests is likely to have contributed to the epidemics in Central Africa.
- While monkeys may be unintentional hosts, the reservoir remains unknown.
- Rodents and non-human primates are thought to be possible reservoirs.

Does the virus mutate?

- The monkeypox virus is a DNA virus with a genome of around 2,00,000 nucleotide bases.

- Despite being a DNA virus, the monkeypox virus has a far lower mutation rate (1-2 mutations per year) than RNA viruses like SARS-CoV-2.
- As a result of the low mutation rate, genomic surveillance is limited in its ability to provide extensive information about monkeypox transmission networks.
- A number of genome sequences from Africa and around the world in recent years have suggested that the virus is divided into two clades: the Congo Basin/Central African clade and the West African clade.
- There are numerous lineages within each of the clades.

What do the genomes say?

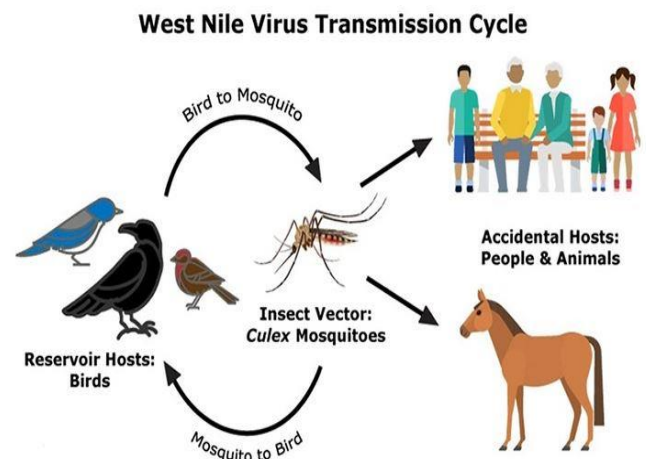
- With over a dozen monkeypox genome sequences available, it's reassuring to see that the sequences are nearly identical, implying that only a few introductions resulted in the current spread of cases.
- Furthermore, practically all genomes are from the West African clade, which has a lower fatality rate than the Central African clade.
- This essentially corresponds to the epidemiological knowledge that large gatherings in the recent past contributed to extensive transmission across countries.

Does it have an effective vaccine?

- It's comforting to know that we now have a lot more information on the virus and its spreading patterns.
- We also have efficient methods for preventing the spread of the disease, such as a vaccine.
- Vaccination against smallpox and vaccinia gives protection.

- Despite the fact that the vaccination was phased out in 1980 after smallpox was eradicated, many countries maintain emergency vaccine stockpiles.
- Younger people are less likely to have had the vaccine and are hence more susceptible to monkeypox, which could explain why it is resurfacing in this age group.

What is the West Nile Virus?



The Kerala health department is on alert after the death occurred due to the West Nile Virus.

West Nile Virus

- The West Nile Virus is a single-stranded RNA virus spread by mosquitos.
- According to the World Health Organization, it is a flavivirus that belongs to the Japanese Encephalitis antigenic complex of the Flaviviridae family.

How does it spread?

- Mosquitoes of the Culex genus are the primary vectors of transmission.
- Infected mosquitoes transmit the virus between and among humans and animals, especially birds, which serve as the virus's reservoir host.

- Mosquitoes become infected after feeding on infected birds, which then carry the virus around in their blood for a few days.
- The virus finally makes its way into the salivary glands of the mosquito.
- The virus may be transferred into humans and animals during subsequent blood meals (when mosquitoes bite), where it might grow and perhaps cause sickness.
- WNV can also be transmitted by blood transfusions, from an infected mother to her child, or through laboratory exposure.
- Contact with infected humans or animals is not thought to be a way for it to spread.

Symptoms of WNV infection

- In 80 percent of afflicted persons, the disease has no symptoms.

- The rest contract West Nile fever, also known as severe West Nile sickness.
- Fever, headache, exhaustion, body aches, nausea, rash, and swollen glands are among the symptoms in 20% of cases.
- Encephalitis, meningitis, paralysis, and even death can result from a severe illness.
- One in every 150 people infected with the West Nile Virus will acquire a more severe version of the disease, according to estimates.
- Recovery from a serious illness might take weeks or months.
- It is frequently lethal in people with co-morbidities and those who are immunocompromised (such as transplant patients).

Security Issues

Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) passes validation trials



The indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) developed by the Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed the validation trials.

Why in news?

- The ATAGS has demonstrated a range of over 45 km, making it the “most consistent and accurate gun in the world”.

ATAG System

- The ATAGS is a 155-mm, 52-calibre artillery cannon developed by the DRDO in collaboration with the Kalyani Group's Bharat Forge and Tata Power SED.
- The indigenous content in ATAGS is larger than 95%. It achieved a world record of 48 kilometres for the largest unassisted projectile range.

Its features

- The gun has a barrel, breech mechanism, muzzle brake, and recoil system, and can fire 155 mm calibre ammunition with a range of 48 kilometres.
- It boasts an all-electric drive to ensure long-term dependability and minimal maintenance.
- High mobility, quick deployability, auxiliary power mode, advanced communication system, autonomous command and control system with night capabilities in direct firing mode are only a few of the advanced characteristics.

How India's new VPN rules change the Status Quo?



Recently, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) issued new directives that require Virtual Private Network (VPN) providers to store user data for five years.

What is VPN?

- When using public networks, a VPN refers to the ability to establish a secure network connection.
- It encrypts data transmitted over the internet and hides a user's online identity.
- Third parties will have a harder time tracking your online activities and stealing data as a result of this.

- The encryption is carried out in real time.

How does a VPN work?

- A VPN masks your IP address by allowing the network to route it through a VPN host's specially configured distant server.
- When you use a VPN to access the internet, the VPN server becomes the source of your data.
- This means that your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and other third parties will be unable to see the websites you visit or the data you transmit and receive over the internet.
- A VPN acts as a filter, converting all of your data into gibberish. Even if someone managed to obtain your information, it would be meaningless.

Why do people use VPN?

- Secure encryption: A VPN connection masks your internet data transmission and keeps it safe from prying eyes. Anyone with network access and a desire to see unencrypted data can do so. Hackers and cyber thieves can't decipher this data if you use a VPN.
- VPN servers simply work as proxies on the internet, allowing you to hide your location. Your exact location cannot be established since the demographic location data comes from a server in another nation.
- The privacy of your data is protected: most VPN providers do not keep logs of your actions. Some providers, on the other hand, keep track of your actions but do not share them with third parties. This means that any possible record of your user behaviour will be completely erased.
- Access to regional web material: Access to regional web content is not always available from all locations. Content on services and

websites is frequently restricted to various regions of the globe.

- Secure data transfer: You may need to access important files on your company's network if you operate remotely. This type of data necessitates a secure connection for security reasons. A VPN connection is frequently required to obtain access to the network.

What does the new CERT-IN directive say?

- Validated client names, physical addresses, email ids, phone numbers, and the reason they are using the service, as well as the dates they use it and their "ownership pattern," will be stored by VPN providers.
- In addition, Cert is requesting that VPN providers maintain track of the IP and email addresses that customers use to register for the service, as well as the registration date.
- Most crucially, VPN providers will be required to keep track of all IP addresses assigned to users as well as a list of IP addresses that consumers frequently use.

What does this mean for VPN providers?

- By just operating in India, VPN providers are in violation of Cert's rules.
- It's worth remembering, though, that "no logs" does not imply "zero logs."
- VPN services must still keep some logs in order to function properly.

Does this mean VPNs will become useless?

- Because the Indian government has not yet prohibited VPNs, they can still be used to access content that is restricted in a particular area, which is the most common application of these services.

- Journalists, activists, and others who utilise such services to mask their online footprints, on the other hand, may want to reconsider.

Project WARDEC: India's upcoming AI-powered Wargame Centre



The Army Training Command signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) to develop a 'Wargame Research and Development Centre (WARDEC)' in New Delhi.

What is Project WARDEC?

- The 'WARDEC' project will be India's first simulation-based training centre, employing artificial intelligence (AI) to create virtual reality wargames.
- The Army will employ the Wargame Research and Development Centre to train soldiers and test plans using "metaverse-enabled gameplay."
- The wargame simulations will be used to train for conflicts, counter-terrorist operations, and counter-insurgency operations.

Where will the centre come up and when?

- According to RRU officials familiar with the situation, the centre will be built in a military zone in New Delhi.

- In the next three to four months, the RRU will collaborate with Tech Mahindra to develop the centre.
- The RRU is a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) institute that focuses on national security and policing.
- Located in Gandhinagar’s Lavad village, it is a “institute of national importance” — a status awarded to it by an Act of Parliament.

How will these simulation exercises play out?

- Soldiers will put their talents to the test in the metaverse, which will combine virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality to imitate their surroundings (AR).
- The gamers will have a realistic experience of the actual situation in the metaverse.
- If a weapon weighing 5 kg falls or the air pressure lowers, they will feel it as if they were in a real-time situation.

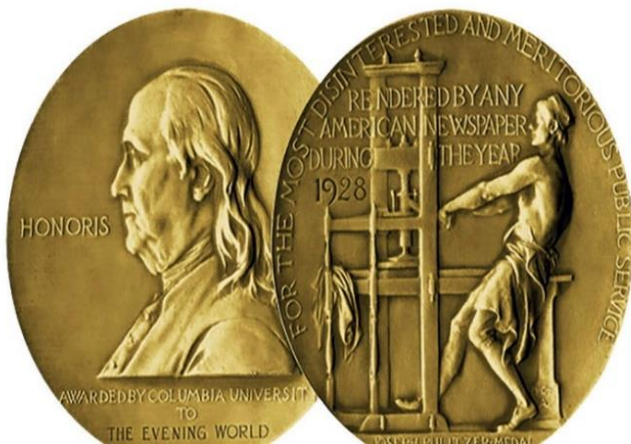
- The game could be played in three different ways: player versus player, player versus computer, or computer versus computer.

How will the centre help the Army?

- The Army plans to use the war-game centre to teach military strategy to its officers.
- The Indian Army will give data to build the scene for the game, ensuring that players have a genuine experience.
- The adversary can ambush you from 361 ways, with 360 sides around the soldier and one above in case of an airdrop, according to Army legend.
- As a result, wargame simulation aids the Army in considering all possible scenarios.

Trivia

Pulitzer Prize and the Indians who have won it



A team of four Indian photographers have won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography for their coverage of the Covid-19 crisis in India.

About Pulitzer Prize

- The Pulitzer is the most coveted award for journalists from across the world.
- It is announced by America’s Columbia University and bestowed on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.

Who was Joseph Pulitzer, after whom the awards are named?

- Joseph Pulitzer was born in Mako, Hungary, in 1847 to a wealthy Magyar-Jewish family. He

served in the military before establishing a reputation as a "tireless writer."

- He joined the German-language daily newspaper Westliche Post in the late 1860s and became a publisher by the age of 25.
- He was elected as a Democrat to the US House of Representatives from New York's ninth district in 1884.

When were the Pulitzer awards instituted?

- The Pulitzer Prizes were established in 1904, as part of Pulitzer's will, which included a provision for the formation of the Pulitzer Prizes as an incentive to greatness.
- Pulitzer only mentioned four journalism awards, four letters and drama honours, one education award, and five trip scholarships.
- The first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded in June of 1917, after his death in 1911.

Indians who have won the Pulitzer

- Journalist Gobind Behari Lal, a member of the Ghadar Party in America, was the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize in 1937.
- Jhumpa Lahiri, an Indian-American writer born in London, won the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction in 2000 for her first collection of short stories, Interpreter of Maladies.
- Geeta Anand, a Mumbai native, was part of the Wall Street Journal team that earned a Pulitzer Prize for corporate misconduct reporting in 2003.
- Sanghamitra Kalita, an Indian-American who was then the managing editor of the Los Angeles Times, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2016.

Booker Prize awarded to first Indian language book



Author Geetanjali Shree's translated Hindi novel, Tomb of Sand, became the first Indian language book to win the International Booker Prize.

Note: Such topics hold very little relevance for CSE prelims. However, last year experience make such topics more uncertain. Still such topics hold relevance for other exams such as CAPF and state PSCs.

What is the Booker Prize?

- The Booker Prize is one of the most well-known literary prizes for English-language fiction, encompassing novels and collections of short stories.
- It was given for the first time in 1969.
- Every year, a group of judges selects the greatest work of the year, based on the requirement that it be written in English and published in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Eminent cultural historians, writers, educators, novelists, and others from related fields make up this panel of judges.
- The winner of the Booker Prize earns £50,000.

About the book

- Daisy Rockwell translated the 2018 novel 'Ret Samadhi' and released it as 'Tomb of Sand' in 2021.
- The Booker Prize is one of two literary awards given out each year by the Booker Prize

Foundation, a charitable organisation whose declared mission is to "advance the art and worth of writing for the public good."

What about the International Booker Prize?

- In 2005, the International Booker Prize was established.
- Initially a biennial prize, it was later awarded for a corpus of work available in English, including translations, with early recipients including Alice Munro, Lydia Davis, and Philip Roth.
- The regulations of the International Prize were revised in 2015 to make it an annual event.
- According to the revised guidelines, it will be given out once a year for a single book authored in another language and translated into English.
- Each year, the £50,000 prize money is split equally between the author and the translator.

Why is it called the 'Booker'?

- From 1969 to 2001, the Booker Prize was simply called after the Booker Group Limited, a British food wholesaler that was the prize's first sponsor.

- The prize was first sponsored by The Man Group, a UK-based investment management organisation, in 2002, and therefore became known as The Man Booker Prize.
- In 2019, the Man Group's sponsorship came to an end.
- Following that, Crankstart, an American nonprofit foundation, was the sponsor. Since then, the reward has been renamed the 'Booker.'

Who have been some prominent winners?

- Margaret Atwood ('The Testaments,' Yann Martel ('Life of Pi,' and Julian Barnes ('The Sense of an Ending') are among the notable winners of the prized medal.
- Arundhati Roy ('The God of Small Things'), Salman Rushdie ('Midnight's Children'), Kiran Desai ('The Inheritance of Loss'), and Aravind Adiga ('The White Tiger') are among the many Indian-origin authors who have received the Booker Prize in the past.
- Shree is the first Indian to be awarded a prize on a global scale



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