

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – April 2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

World Backup Day 2022: 31 March

- Every year World Backup Day 2022 is celebrated on 31 March.
- This is a yearly reminder for us to back up our files safely to avoid any data loss.

Transgender Day of Visibility – March 31

- The Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is an international awareness day is observed on March 31, honouring transgender and gender nonconforming people's achievements and resilience.

International Day of Drug Checking- 31st March:

- The International Day of Drug Checking is celebrated on 31st March every year since 2017.

Odisha Day or Utkal Divas- 1st April 2022:

- The foundation day of Odisha, known as Odisha Day, or Utkal Diwas will be observed on 1st April.

International Children's Book Day- April 2

- International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised every year on April 2 since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) - an international non-profit organisation.

World Autism Awareness Day- April 2, 2022

- World Autism Awareness Day is observed on April 2, every year to make people understand and accept people with autism, foster worldwide support, and inspire people.
- It is a day that spread kindness and autism awareness.

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action:

- The General Assembly approved the decision on December 8, 2005, and declared April 4 of each year to be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

National Maritime Day- 5th April:

- National Maritime Day is annually observed on April 5, 2022.
- The theme of National Maritime Day 2022 is 'Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19'.

United Nations International Day of Conscience:

- The General Assembly of the United Nations agreed in 2019 to declare April 5th the International Day of Conscience, with the aim of creating conditions of stability and well-being and

relationships based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction based on race, sex, language or religion.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace:

- The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP), which takes place annually on 6 April, presents an opportunity to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the globe.

World Health Day- April 7th

- April 7 is celebrated and observed as **World Health Day**.
- The theme for this year's World Health Day is "Our Planet, Our Health".

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda:

- The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwandan Genocide was recognized as an international observance by the United Nations on April 7, 2004.
- International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda is commemorated by UNESCO

CRPF Valour Day- 9th April:

- On April 9th, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrates Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) to tribute to the Force's courteous personnel.
- The 57th CRPF Valour Day will be held in 2022.

World Homeopathy Day-10th April:

- World Homeopathy Day is observed annually on April 10 to commemorate Dr Samuel Hahnemann's birth anniversary.
- This year, the theme for World Homeopathy Day 2022 in India is "People's Choice For Wellness"

International Day of Human Space Flight - 12 April

- The United Nations (UN) celebrates the International Day of Human Space Flight on April 12 each year.
- The day remembers the first human space flight on April 12, 1961.

National Safe Motherhood Day- April 11

- National Safe Motherhood Day is observed every year on April 11.
- It is aimed at raising awareness about the care that a pregnant woman needs before, during, and after childbirth.

World Parkinson's Day 2022:

- **World Parkinson's Day** belongs to the Parkinson's community.
- This year, on **11 April**, Parkinson's **UK is supporting 2 activities**, chosen and led by a group of dedicated and passionate volunteers: **Poems for Parkinson's** and **Light Up Blue for Parkinson's**.

International Turban Day- April 13:

- **International Turban Day**, observed annually on **April 13th since 2004**, is an occasion that **celebrates Sikh Identity**.
- The 2022 Turban Day marks the **553rd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev** and the festival of **Baisakhi**.

38th Siachen Day - 13 April:

- The **Siachen Warriors celebrated the 37th Siachen Day** on 13th April 2021 to honour the soldiers of the Indian army who continue to guard the **Siachen Glacier**, the northern frontier which is a part of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Ambedkar Jayanti - 14 April

- **April 14** is marked as **Ambedkar Jayanti** to honour **Dr Ambedkar's countless contributions** in the making of **present-day India**.
- Ambedkar is known as the **Father (chief architect)** of the Indian Constitution.
- He was the **first Law and Justice Minister** of the country after the independence.
- **Dr Bhim** has been bestowed with the **country's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna** in 1990 **posthumously**.

World Chagas Disease Day - 14 April

- To raise awareness about a **life-threatening disease** that can cause serious heart and digestive issues, every year **April 14** is observed as **World Chagas Day**.
- It is often termed a **"silent and silenced disease"**
- **World Chagas Disease Day** was first observed on **April 14, 2020**
- April 14 was chosen to mark the day as the **first case of Chagas disease** in a human was reported on this day in 1990.

World Art Day - 15th April

- **World Art Day** is observed every year on **15 April globally**.
- World Art Day was **first declared** in 2019 during the **40th session of UNESCO's General Conference**.
- The day also marks the birth anniversary of the famous Renaissance polymath **Leonardo da Vinci**.

Himachal Pradesh statehood Day- 15th April:

- April 15 is observed as Himachal Day.
- Four districts of Mandi, Chamba, Mahasu and Sirmour were integrated with over two dozen princely states, leading to the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a Union Territory in 1948.

World Voice Day 2022:

- Every year on April 16, the world celebrates World Voice Day.
- This day is commemorated to raise awareness and education about the value of speaking in our daily lives.
- On April 16, 1999, the Brazilian Society of Laryngology and Voice, chaired by Dr. Nedio Steffen, declared the day as Brazilian Voice Day.

Save the Elephant Day: 16 April

- Every year, Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16, aiming to raise awareness regarding the danger's elephants face and the various difficulties they have to overcome to live.
- The Day is established by the Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation.

World Hemophilia Day- 17th April:

- World Hemophilia Day was started by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WHF) and is annually observed on the 17th of April.
- World Hemophilia Day is aimed at raising awareness about haemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
- Theme of 2022 is 'Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy.'

World Heritage Day- 18th April

- Every year, the world observes April 18 as World Heritage Day.
- The theme for World Heritage Day 2022 is "Heritage and Climate".
- The International Day for Monuments and Sites was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.

World Liver Day:

- Every year World Liver Day is celebrated on April 19.
- The day is observed to raise awareness about liver diseases across the world.
- The liver is the largest solid organ of the body that removes toxins from the body.

UN Chinese Language Day- 20th April:

- UN Chinese Language Day is observed globally on April 20 every year.

- The day has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.
- **The 1st Chinese Language Day was celebrated in 2010** on the 12th of November, but since 2011 the date has been on the 20th of April.

National Civil Services Day- 21 April:

- **Every year on April 21**, the Government of India commemorates '**Civil Services Day**' as an opportunity for city officials to recommit themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their vows to public service and work excellence.
- The day was chosen to remember the day in **1947** when **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the first Home Minister of Independent India.
- The first such event took place on **April 21, 2006**, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

World Creativity and Innovation Day- 21st April:

- The UN-designated **21 April** to be celebrated **World Creativity and Innovation Day** in order to raise awareness about the crucial role of creativity and innovation in different aspects of human development.
- **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** was founded on **25 May 2001** in Toronto, Canada.
- The founder of the day was the **Canadian Marci Segal**.

International Mother Earth Day -22 April

- **Earth Day is observed on April 22** aims to spread awareness about issues, including pollution, deforestation and global warming.
- The theme for Earth Day 2022 is "**Invest In our Planet**" calling for businesses to shift towards sustainable practices.
- The **United Nations** celebrates the day as **International Mother Earth Day**.
- It will mark the day with a "**Harmony with Nature**" theme.

World Book and Copyright Day -23rd April

- **Every year on April 23**, **World Book and Copyright Day** is observed to promote the love of reading.
- World Book Day, also known as **World Book and Copyright Day** or **International Day of the Book**, is an annual event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.
- The **first World Book Day was celebrated on 23 April in 1995**, and continues to be recognized on that day.

English Language and Spanish Language Day-23rd April 2022:

- **UN Spanish Language Day** is observed annually on **23 April**.
- The event was established by the UN's Department of Public Information in 2010.

- The purpose of the **UN's language days** is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.

National Panchayati Raj Day- 24th April

- Every year, **April 24** is observed as **National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD)** by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to celebrate the constitutional status accorded to the Panchayati Raj system in the country.
- Objective : **to increase awareness about Panchayats and Gram Sabhas**, the institutions of the local self-governments for the rural areas mandated by the Constitution, and also about their roles, responsibilities, achievements, concerns, resolutions etc.
- The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act**, which was passed in 1992, is also commemorated on this day.
- In 1959, Rajasthan became the first state in India to launch the Panchayati Raj while Andhra Pradesh became the second state to launch the system.

International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace- 24th April:

- The **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** is celebrated annually on **24 April**.
- It seeks to reaffirm the **UN Charter** and its principles of resolving disputes among countries through peaceful means.
- The Day acknowledges the **use of multilateral decision-making and diplomacy** in achieving peaceful **resolutions** to conflicts among nations.
- It was established on **12 December 2018** and was **first observed** on **24 April 2019**.

World Malaria Day- 25th April

- **World Malaria Day** is observed on **25 April** every year.
- The theme for World Malaria Day this year is **“Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives”**.
- The **World Health Assembly** first marked World Malaria Day in May 2007 in its 60th session

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day - 26th April:

- Every year on **April 26th**, **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day** marks the anniversary of this **historic nuclear accident**.
- The day also focuses on the prevention of future nuclear disasters.
- After the 30th anniversary of the accident, on **December 8, 2016**, the **United Nations** adopted the resolution and **proclaimed April 26** as the **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day**.

World Intellectual Property Day -April 26th

- Every year, on **April 26**, people throughout the world celebrate **World Intellectual Property Day**.

- The purpose of the day is to create public awareness about the **importance of intellectual property rights, including patents, copyright, trademarks, and designs.**
- This year, World Intellectual Property Day 2022's theme focuses on **"IP and Youth innovating for a Better Future."**

International Delegate's Day – 25th April:

- **International Delegates Day** is observed every year on **April 25th.**
- This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the role of representatives and delegates from the Member States at the **United Nations.**
- International Delegates Day commemorates the first day of the San Francisco Conference, also known as the **United Nations Conference on International Organization.**

World Immunization Week 2022 - 24 to 30 April

- **World Immunization Week**, celebrated in the **last week of April**, aims to highlight the collective action needed and to promote **the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.**
- To commemorate the day, WHO has decided on the theme of 2022 Immunization Week as **"Long Life for All".**

International Girls in ICT Day -28th April

- The **fourth Thursday in April** is designated as International Girls in ICT Day.
- This year's International Girls in ICT Day is **April 28th, 2022.**
- The theme for this year is **"Access and safety."**

World Day for Safety and Health at Work- 28th April

- The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is celebrated annually on **28 April** to promote the **prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.**
- The theme for this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2022 is **"Act together to build a positive safety and health culture".**
- **28 April is also the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers** organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996.

World Stationery Day - 27th April:

- **World Stationery Day** is celebrated every year on the **last Wednesday of April.**
- This year **World Stationery Day 2022** is observed on the **27th of April.**
- World Stationery Day is celebrated **every year since 2012** to honour the **800th anniversary of the creation of the Magna Carta** which is one of the most important written documents in British history.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

Centre approves over Rs 433 crores Legacy Waste Remediation proposal of Maharashtra:

- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has approved over 433 crore rupees for 28 Urban Local bodies in Maharashtra to effectively managing the Solid Waste Management. Garbage Dumpsites have become a massive problem for most urban cities, Maharashtra's Greater Mumbai holds the maximum amount of legacy waste in the state.

Cabinet approves over Rs 6062 crore, World Bank assisted programme on Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance:

- The Union Cabinet has approved 808 million dollars or over Six thousand 62 crore rupees, World Bank assisted programme on Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance RAMP.

Cabinet Committee on Security approves procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopters Limited Series from HAL for Indian Air Force:

- The Cabinet Committee on Security, CCS has approved procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production at the cost of three thousand 887 crore rupees.
- The CCS met under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Govt approves release of additional installment of 3% of DA to Central Govt employees, DR to pensioner from 1 January 2022:

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the release of an additional instalment of three Percent of dearness allowance, DA to Central Government employees and dearness relief to pensioners from the first of January 2022.

Centre launches auction of 122 Coal and Lignite mines:

- Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched an auction of 122 Coal and Lignite Mines including 18 New Mines.
- Addressing the fifth tranche of auction launch in New Delhi, Mr Joshi, that 42 coal mines have already been auctioned successfully.

Home Ministry's High-Level Committee approves additional Central assistance of over Rs 1,887 crores to 5 States:

- The High-Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Home
- Minister Amit Shah has approved additional Central assistance of over one thousand 887 crore rupees to five States under the National Disaster Response Fund.

National Dairy Development Board in collaboration with the National Bee Board organized National Conclave on 'Production of Bees Wax':

- A National Conclave on “**Production of Bees Wax**” was organized by **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**, Gujarat in collaboration with the **National Bee Board (NBB)**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 30th March, 2022.

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry approves construction of two lakh 42 thousand houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban):

- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has approved the construction of two lakh 42 thousand houses in six states under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- These states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Doordarshan FreeDish becomes largest DTH platform with reach of over 43 million households:

- Doordarshan FreeDish has become the largest DTH platform with reach of more than 43 million households.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the free DTH service of Doordarshan clocked stellar growth of almost 100 per cent from 22 Million in 2017 to 43 Million in 2022.

PM Modi inaugurates development projects worth Rs 22,000 crore in Dahod, Gujarat:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the various development projects worth 22,000 crore rupees at a special function organised at Dahod in Gujarat.
- This includes the manufacturing project of 9,000 HP Electric Locomotives at the Railway Production Unit in Dahod.

India's first pure green hydrogen plant commissioned in Assam:

- Oil India Limited (OIL) has taken the first significant step towards the Green Hydrogen Economy in India by commissioning India's First 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant, with an installed capacity of 10 kg per day at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam.
- Shri Sushil Chandra Mishra, Chairman & Managing Director, inaugurated the plant.
- The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array.

Mobile app for 2nd Khelo India University Games launched:

- The second edition of the Khelo India University Games to be held in the tech capital of Bengaluru will have its own mobile app.

- This app launched is a **single point reference** for all the information on the **University games** to be inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on **24th April**.
- Post-Covid third wave, this will be **India's first largest sporting event** with the participation of over 4500 sportspersons from 189 Universities in 20 disciplines.
- **The event will be held till May 3rd.**

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate Khelo India University Games in Bengaluru on 24th April:

- The **Khelo India University Games** set to be inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in **Bengaluru on April 24** will see the participation of Olympians.
- According to the **Sports Authority of India**, Tokyo Olympians **Srihari Nataraj** representing Swimming, Manu Bhaker in Shooting, and Dutee Chand in Athletics will be competing in the Games.
- During the **second edition of the games**, two new disciplines namely **Yogasana** and **Mallakhamb** are added for the first time.

NITI Aayog, UNICEF India sign Statement of Intent on SDGs with focus on children:

- NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a **Statement of Intent on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** with a focus on children.
- This seeks to formalize a framework of cooperation to launch the first report on the State of India's Children - **Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development**.
- NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, this new initiative is built on the ethos of **SDG attainments for children and ensuring that no child is left behind**.

Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates a nationwide meeting on agriculture for the 2022 Kharif campaign:

- Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the National Conference on Agriculture for the **Kharif Campaign 2022-23** at the NASC Complex in New Delhi.
- According to the **2nd Advance Estimates (2021-22)**, total food grain production in the country will reach 3160 lakh tonnes, a new high.
- The production of pulses and oilseeds will be **269.5 lakh tonnes and 371.5 lakh tonnes, respectively**.

PM Modi to inaugurate the 7th edition of Raisina Dialogue on April 25:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **seventh edition of Raisina Dialogue** on the 25th of April.
- President of the European Union **Ursula von Der Leyen** will be the chief guest at the Dialogue.
- The three-day event is based on the theme - **Terranova, impassioned, impatient, imperilled**.
- There are six broad thematic pillars of the dialogue including Rethinking Democracy, End of Multilateralism, Water Caucuses, and Achieving Green Transitions.

Rajnath Singh to inaugurate DefConnect 2.0 to woo investors in Delhi:

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** to inaugurate **DefConnect 2.0** organised by **Innovations for Defence Excellence, Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO)** in New Delhi.
- It will include sessions with stalwarts of the industry, various announcements and static exhibitions of an array of start-ups supported by iDEX-DIO.
- Till date, **iDEX has launched five rounds of Defence India Start-up Challenges** and three rounds of Open Challenges receiving more than 2,000 applications from individual innovators and start-ups.
- The index, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, essentially provides a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence and aerospace sectors.

Government Officials to be trained in National Cyber Exercise:

- The **National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India)** is being organized by the **National Security Council Secretariat** for government officials and critical sector organizations to strengthen the country's cyber posture.
- The NCX India exercise will be held till **29th April 2022**.
- The **National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise** was kicked off by National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval**.

Surat hosts the Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization' conference:

- The 3-day "**Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization**" conference had a grand opening in Surat.
- The event is being organised by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, Government of India with **Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd.**, under the clarion call of **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)**, given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to commemorate the **75th anniversary of Independence**.
- An awards distribution ceremony was organised, during the inaugural wherein award winners of the **India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020** were felicitated.
- **Surat and Indore** were given the **Best city award**, while **Uttar Pradesh** was awarded the **Best State**.

NITI Aayog to organize a day-long national workshop on 'Innovative Agriculture' on April 25:

- As part of the **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, NITI Aayog is organizing a day-long national workshop on '**Innovative Agriculture**'.
- The workshop is expected to bring together stakeholders working in the field of innovative agriculture and natural-farming practices from India and abroad.
- Natural farming practices are mostly in harmony with the principles of **agroecology** advocated by the **Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO**.

Govt sets target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to 10,000 by March 2024:

- The Union Government has set a target to **increase** the number of **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras** to **10,000** by **March 2024**.
- Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry said that the government has invited applications to open Janaushadhi Kendras in **three thousand five hundred 79 Blocks** of **four hundred six districts** of **26 States and Union Territories**.
- It highlighted that under the scheme, **seven hundred 39 districts** of the country have been covered and **eight thousand six hundred ten stores** have been opened till March.

India Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Conference 2022 to be held on April 25:

- The **7th** edition of the **India Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Conference 2022** will be held in **New Delhi**.
- The theme of the three-day conference is - **Vision 2047: Transformative roadmap for the future**.

Apple announces partnership for protection, conservation of mangroves in Maharashtra:

- **Apple** has announced a new partnership with the **Applied Environmental Research Foundation and Conservation International** to protect the mangrove ecosystem and the livelihoods that depend on it in the **Raigad district of Maharashtra**.
- Apple awarded a grant to the **Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF)** in 2021 to work with the local community to protect a **2,400-hectare mangrove forest** in the region.

Union Agriculture Ministry to launch 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is organizing the **'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari'** campaign.
- The campaign which will continue till **30th April** is being organized under **'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'** in association with various other Ministries and Departments.

Indian Railways augment transportation of Coal through Railways by a record 111 million tonnes during the year 2021-22:

- **Indian Railways** has augmented the transportation of coal by a record **111 million tonnes** and loaded a record **653 Million Tonnes of coal** in the last financial year with a growth of 20 percent, as compared to 542 million tonnes in 2021.
- Further from **September 2021 to March 2022**, the loading of coal to the power sector was augmented by **32 percent** in just 2 quarters.

Government to raise number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to 10,000 by March 2024:

- Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated **seven National Highway Projects** worth **5569 crore rupees** in **Aurangabad, Maharashtra**.

- The soil extracted from the ponds developed in **Adgaon-Gandheli, Nakshatrawadi and Valmi areas**, Teesgaon as well as Sajapur village areas have got double benefit.

NITI Aayog released a draft battery swapping policy for 2022:

- Government think tank **Niti Aayog** has released a **draft battery swapping policy** under which all metropolitan cities with a population above **40 lakh** will be prioritised for the development of a **battery swapping network** under the first phase.
- All major cities such as state capitals, UT headquarters and cities with a population above **5 lakh** will be covered under the second phase, given the importance of the **two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicle segments** in growing cities.

India's participated as the Guest of honour at the Paris Book Festival 2022:

- The **Paris Book Festival** was inaugurated on **21st April 2022** & **India Pavilion** at the Paris Book Festival was inaugurated.
- India's participation as a guest of honour at the Paris Book Festival 2022
- The India Pavilion which has been designed by **National Institute of Design (NID)**

Fasal Bima Pathshala organized under Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari campaign:

- **Fasal Bima Pathshala** has been organized across the country under the '**Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari**' campaign.
- Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** chaired the **National level special programme** on Fasal Bima Pathshala along with Minister of state **Kailash Choudhary**.
- The '**Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari**' Campaign is being organized from **25th to 30th April** under **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- The Campaign aims to make the farmers aware of key scheme aspects of **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** like basic scheme provisions, the importance of ensuring the crops and how to avail of scheme benefits.

I&B Ministry blocks 16 YouTube news channels for spreading disinformation related to the country's national security:

- The **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** has blocked **16 YouTube news channels** for spreading disinformation related to the **country's national security, foreign relations, and public order**.
- **Ten Indian and six Pakistan-based YouTube channels** have been blocked under **Information Technology Rules, 2021**

Asia's biggest international food, hospitality fair AAHAR-2022 commences at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi:

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** in association with the **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** is organising Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair **AAHAR 2022** at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh launches 'Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak' campaign:

- **Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak** was launched by **Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh** in New Delhi.
- The **90-day campaign** is launched with a mission to saturate **75 Districts across 28 States and UTs** with beneficiary schemes of nine central ministries.
- The goal of the campaign is to take up **17 select schemes with direct assistance to beneficiaries in saturation mode**, reaching out to the person at the bottom of the pyramid in rural areas by each of the participating ministries and departments.

MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar launches Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program:

- Minister of State for **Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar** has launched **Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program**.

Cabinet approves 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric projects in J&K's Kishtwar:

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the construction of the **540-Megawatt Kwar Hydro Electric** project located on river **Chenab** in the **Kishtwar district** of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The project will be implemented by **Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited** which is a joint venture company between **NHPC** and **JKSPDC**.

India made Guinness Record for synchronic Waving of More than 78,000 National Flags:

- According to the Ministry of Culture, **India entered the Guinness Book of World Records** by simultaneously waving **78,220 flags** at the '**Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav**' program in **Bhojpur, Bihar**.

India's first Amrit Sarovar was established in UP:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to a **local pond** in **Shahabad's Patwai** area of **Rampur** in **Uttar Pradesh** being transformed into an '**Amrit Sarovar**' – the name the PM has given to an initiative that seeks to focus on the need for water conservation, among other things.
- With the efforts of **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**-led government in **Uttar Pradesh**, **India's first 'Amrit Sarovar'** has been completed in **Rampur's Gram Panchayat Patwai**.

India to host accountants World Congress for the first time in 118 years:

- **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** is set to host the **21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA)**, the kumbh of accountants, for the **first time in 118 years** of its existence.

- The event will take place in the newly built Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.
- The theme for 2022 would be “Building Trust Enabling Sustainability”.

PM Modi to inaugurate Semicon India Conference-2022 in Bengaluru:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Semicon India Conference-2022.
- This three-day event will take place in Bengaluru.
- The three-day conference, is being organised to take forward the vision of Prime Minister to make India a leader in the electronics manufacturing, semiconductor design, manufacturing and innovation.

PM Modi has inaugurated Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) in Surat Gujarat:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) in Surat Gujarat via video conferencing.
- Sardardham is organizing GPBS under Mission-2026 to provide an impetus to the socio-economic development of Patidar community.
- The Summit is organized every two years.
- The main theme of GPBS-2022 is Aatmanirbhar Community to Aatmanirbhar Gujarat and India.

Samba becomes first district in India to cover 100% households under ABPMJAY- SEHAT scheme:

- 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.
- The Samba district has a total of 62,641 families with 3,04,510 people eligible for ABPM-JAY SEHAT golden cards.
- The ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by Government and the people with Ayushman Bharat Golden Card get free treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh in all government and empanelled private hospitals across India.

Prime Minister Modi has attended virtual summit of BIMSTEC:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended the 5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) summit.
- PM Modi will attend the summit virtually.

Jal Shakti Minister launches Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees Performance Monitoring System:

- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees Performance Monitoring System.

- Mr. Shekhawat stated that the Digital Dashboard launched will help the District Ganga Committees DGCs in enhancing people-river connect.

IMF lauds India's PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana program:

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded India's food subsidy program which prevented the increased prevalence of extreme poverty in the country during Covid-19.
- In a report the IMF, the expansion of food transfers and subsidies make it an important instrument for poverty alleviation

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Air Force Commanders' Conference in Delhi:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the Air Force Commanders' Conference AFCC at Air Headquarters in New Delhi.
- The conference was attended by Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt and Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar along with senior commanders of the Indian Air Force.

Stand-Up India Scheme completes 6 years:

- Stand Up India scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th April 2016.
- It facilitates loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and women borrowers for setting up a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services, or trading sector.

Advisory committee formed for semiconductor mission:

- The ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) has formed an advisory committee for the country's semiconductor mission.
- The 17-member committee of experts, comprises senior government officials, academicians as well as industry and domain experts.

Ministry of Ayush's Yoga Mahotsav begins at the Red Fort in Delhi:

- The Ministry of Ayush is all set to celebrate the World Health Day with a grand program, including a demonstration of the Common Yoga Protocol, scheduled to be organised in the backdrop of the Red Fort in New Delhi

'One Health' pilot project launched by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying:

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has launched a pilot project in Uttarakhand to implement the One Health Framework by the One Health Support Unit.

Arya.ag Joins United Nations International Compact Community India:

- Arya.ag, India's largest and fastest-growing built-in grain commerce platform, has joined the United Nations International Compact India thereby voluntarily conforming to common sustainability ideas and taking steps to assist UN SDGs.

AAI launches 'AVSAR' Scheme to provide platform to SHGs for promotion of local artisans and products:

- Under "AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of The Region), which is an initiative of AAI, an opportunity to help the indigent to mobilize their households into functionally effective self-earned groups for self-reliance and self-dependence, has been provided.

Ministry of I&B Constitutes Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force, headed by Secretary, Mol&B:

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has constituted an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force.
- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to set up of the force in February during the budget speech, to suggest ways to markets and global demand.

The Ministry of Sports releases USD 72,124 to the UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping:

- The Government of India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has given USD 72,124 to the UNESCO Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport 2022.

Cabinet approves extension of Atal Innovation Mission till March 2023:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), till March 2023.
- The AIM shall work on its intended target of creating an innovation culture and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country.

PM Mudra Yojana celebrates the completion of 7 years:

- April 9th is the 7th anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, PMMY.
- The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8th April 2015, for providing loans up to 10 Lakh rupees to the non-corporate, non-farm small, or micro-enterprises.

The National Commission for Women launched an Anti-Human Trafficking Cell:

- The National Commission for Women launched an Anti-Human Trafficking Cell to improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking, raising awareness among women and girls,

capacity building and training of Anti Trafficking Units and increasing responsiveness of law enforcement agencies.

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

- India's first case of the XE variant of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) was reported from Mumbai
- Results of the 11th genome sequencing declared by the city civic body Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), found one sample positive for XE variant and another for Kappa variant.

South-Central Railway launches 'One station One Product' initiative at 6 major stations:

- The South-Central Railway (SCR) has launched the "One station One Product" initiative at 6 major stations in all its six divisions.
- SCR in-charge General Manager, Arun Kumar Jain, has inaugurated stalls under the new initiative at Secunderabad Station.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releases third positive indigenisation list in New Delhi to develop India as defence manufacturing hub:

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released the third positive indigenisation list in New Delhi to develop India as a defence manufacturing hub.
- The third list consists of over one hundred items, including complex equipment and systems which are being developed and likely to translate into firm orders over the next five years.

Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates scientific convention on 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness':

- Union Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated a two-day scientific convention on 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness' in New Delhi.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav chairs the 20th NTCA meeting:

- The union minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav chaired the 20th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) which was held in Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh on 9th April 2022.
- First-ever NTCA meeting was conducted outside National Capital held at Arunachal Pradesh.

President Ramnath Kovind Inaugurates Madhavpur Ghed Fair:

- President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a five-day fair at Madhavpur Ghed village in Gujarat's Porbandar district.

- This fair is held to celebrate the wedding of Lord Krishna and Goddess Rukmani at Madhavpur Ghed, a famous pilgrimage spot.

PM Modi virtually addressed 14th Foundation Day of Umiya Mata Temple:

- Prime Minister Modi was virtually addressing the 14th foundation day celebrations of Umiya Mata Temple in Junagadh on Ramnavami.
- The inauguration of the temple was also done by Mr. Modi in 2008, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Govt launched the 'Broadcast Seva' platform to increase transparency:

- The Broadcast Seva Portal was developed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to improve the convenience of doing business in the broadcast industry.
- This will be an online portal option for broadcasters to quickly file and process applications for various types of licences, permissions, registrations, and other things.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to inaugurate 'Amrit Samagam':

- Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation has launched the Amrit Samagam, a summit of the country's tourism and cultural ministers, in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Culture is hosting a two-day conference, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Number of patent filings rises to 66,440 in FY22: Commerce ministry

- The number of patent filings increased from 42,763 in 2014-15 to 66,440 in 2021-22 due to steps taken by the government to strengthen the intellectual property rights (IPR) regime of the country.

IISc Conducted Study, that found Microplastics in the Cauvery River:

- Microplastics in the Cauvery River have been identified as one of the major reasons for deformities in fish and other impacts on marine life, according to a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

National Commission for Women launches Anti-Human Trafficking Cell:

- The National Commission for Women launched an Anti-Human Trafficking Cell.
- It aims to improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking, raising awareness among women and girls, capacity building and training of Anti Trafficking Units and to increase responsiveness of law enforcement agencies.

IFFCO developed nanotechnology-based Nano Urea (Liquid) fertilizer:

- The Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Bhagwanth Khuba** has informed the Lok Sabha that IFFCO has developed nanotechnology-based Nano Urea (Liquid) fertilizer.

NMPB prepares draft scheme for promotion of Medicinal Plant Cultivation:

- **National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)** under the Ministry of Ayush has prepared a draft scheme namely “**Pradhan Manti VRIKSH-AYUSH Yojana**” for promotion of **Medicinal Plant Cultivation, Post-harvest management and Marketing support** by involving farmers and the **Ayush industry**.

Government extends foreign trade policy till September 30:

- The government has further **extended the existing Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) till September 30, 2022**.
- FTP provides guidelines for enhancing exports to push economic growth and create jobs.

Ministry of Culture launches ‘Temple 360’ website:

- **Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi** launched the website ‘**Temple 360**’ in an event organized by Ministry of Culture at **IGNCA Ampitheatre, Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts, New Delhi** under the aegis of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

4th edition of India Boat & Marine Show (IBMS) concludes in Kochi:

- The **4th India Boat & Marine Show (IBMS)** was held at **Bolgatty Palace in Kochi in Kerala** between 25th March and 27th March 2022.

India's unemployment rate falls to 7.6% in March from 8.1% in Feb 2022:

- **Unemployment rate in the country is decreasing** with the economy slowly returning to normal, according to **CMIE data**.
- **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's monthly time series data** revealed that the overall unemployment rate in India was **8.1% in February 2022, which fell to 7.6% in March**.

RPF arrests touts for illegal ticketing under Operation Upalabdh:

- The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has arrested **1,459 touts** and blocked **366 IRCTC agent IDs** and **6,751 personal IDs** as part of a **month-long pan-India drive against illegal ticketing**.

Flipkart Foundation launched for growth of rural area and women:

- **Walmart-backed E-commerce giant Flipkart** announced that it has constituted **Flipkart Foundation**.

- The Foundation will focus on supporting improved market access for under-served communities, entrepreneurship, skill development, community development, livelihood opportunities and environmental responsibility, with an aim to impact 20 million lives directly and indirectly over the next decade.

The environment ministry announces the launch of the 'Prakriti' green initiative:

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** on **March 5th, 2022** launched awareness mascot '**Prakriti**' & other green initiatives for effective plastic waste management.
- Mascot '**Prakriti**' has been launched to spread mass awareness about how adoption of small changes in our lifestyle can play a big role in environment sustainability.

GST collections hit all-time high of Rs 1.42 lakh crore:

- Gross collections of **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** rose to **Rs 1.42 lakh crore** in **March**, for sales in February, according to data released by the **Union Finance Ministry**, a **14.7 per cent** rise from **March 2021** and a **45.6 per cent** spike from **March 2020**.

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launches 'SVANidhi se Samridhi':

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched '**SVANidhi se Samridhi**' program in additional 126 cities across 14 States/ UTs.
- '**SVANidhi se Samridhi**', an additional program of **PMSVANidhi** was launched on **4th January 2021** in **125 cities in Phase 1**, covering approximately 35 Lakh Street vendors and their families.

ICCR has Launched India Alumni Portal for Foreign Students:

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, **ICCR** has launched an **India Alumni Portal** in **New Delhi**.
- It is a platform to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India.
- Minister of State for External Affairs **Meenakshi Lekhi** launched the portal in the presence of **ICCR** president **Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe**.

UNDP Declares Grants of \$2.2 Million in Climate Action for Innovators:

- The **UNDP** and partners of the **Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM)** have announced **\$2.2 million** in **climate action grants for 22 local innovators** across 19 countries, including India.
- The first round of funding through the **Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)** window will enhance local climate action and accelerate the delivery of targets outlined in the **Paris Agreement** and **Sustainable Development Goals**.

PM Modi inaugurates Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya** in New Delhi on April 14.
- The Sangrahalaya, located at the iconic **Teen Murti complex**, was inaugurated as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav a 75-week celebration launched.

Union Government crosses its asset monetization target for FY22:

- The Centre has completed asset monetisation worth Rs 96,000 crore during FY22, surpassing the target of Rs 88,000 crore.
- For FY23, it has set itself a goal of **Rs 1.62 trillion**, and already has a pipeline of **assets worth Rs 1.6 trillion** under advanced stages of implementation
- The **Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways** has monetised assets worth Rs 23,000 crore, which included a 390-km stretch through InvIT and three ToT bundles.
- The Ministry of Power monetised assets of **Rs 9,500 crore** with **PowerGrid Corporation,s InvIT** and **NHPC's** securitisation of its operational hydel assets.
- The monetisation target for the power ministry was set at **Rs 7,700 crore**.

IIT Guwahati collaborated with NTPC to develop energy efficient tech to capture CO2:

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati** has partnered with **NTPC Limited** to design and develop a highly energy-efficient plant for **CO2 capture from power plants**.
- This technology, which works on flue gas using a newly activated amine solvent (IITGS), consumes **up to 11 percent less energy** compared to commercial activated MDEA solvent and **up to 31 percent less energy** compared to benchmark MEA solvent.

40th edition of Hunar Haat inaugurated in Mumbai:

- The 40th edition of Hunar Haat was inaugurated by Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Thakur** in Mumbai.
- The event is being held at **MMRDA Ground, Bandra-Kurla Complex** in Mumbai, from April 16 to April 27.

SVANidhi se Samriddhi' phase II launched to shield 28 lakh street vendors:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched '**SVANidhi se Samriddhi**' program in additional **126 cities across 14 States/ UTs**.
- '**SVANidhi se Samriddhi**', an additional program of PMSVANidhi was launched on 4th January 2021 in 125 cities in Phase 1, **covering approximately 35 lakh street vendors and their families**.

NITI Aayog to launch National Data and Analytics Platform:

- The **NITI Aayog** is planning to launch a **National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)** in May to provide government data in a user-friendly format, to promote data-driven decision making and research.

- Conceived in 2020, the platform aims to **standardise data across government sources** and provide flexible analytics that makes it easy for users to analyse information using multiple datasets.
- The portal will **help policymakers, academics and researchers to easily analyse data without having to process it.**

India's 1st Internet Radio Radio Aksh For Visually Challenged Launched in Nagpur:

- Country's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named 'Radio Aksh' has been launched in Nagpur, with the **Blind Relief Association Nagpur** and **Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham)**
- This concept was created as a substitute for audiobooks provided by **Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal** to the visually impaired on their digital devices

Govt extends PMGKP Insurance Scheme for Health Care Workers:

- The Union Government has extended the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance Scheme for Health Care Workers Fighting COVID-19** for a further period of 180 days.

Ethosh Digital has opened its first IT Training & Services centre in Leh:

- Ladakh Additional Director General of Police **SS Khandare** has inaugurated the first IT Training and Services centre of **Ethosh Digital**, in Leh.
- **Ethosh Digital** is a **California-based Multinational Company**, working in the field of digital communications and AR-VR products.

e-DAR portal to speed up accident compensation claims:

- The **Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** have developed the portal named 'e-DAR' (e-Detailed Accident Report).
- **Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR)** will be uploaded on the portal for easy access.
- The web portal will be linked to the **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)**.

World's Highest Tunnel connecting Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh to be constructed by BRO:

- **Border Roads Organisation** will construct the world's highest tunnel at **Shinku La Pass** at 16,580 feet to connect **Himachal Pradesh** to **Ladakh**, informed **BRO Director General Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhary**.
- This tunnel, to be completed by 2025, will change the economy of **Zaskar Valley**.

PM Modi lays the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar:

- **Prime Minister** laid the foundation stone of **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat** in the presence of the Prime Minister of Mauritius **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth** and **Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus**, Director-General, **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

- GCTM will be the first and only global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the world.

Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centre Scheme marked its 4th year anniversary:

- **Health and Wellness Centres** which was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **14th April 2018** with the objective of providing health for all will complete its **4th year Anniversary** on **14th April 2022**.
- In this regard the Union Health Ministry will be organising a week-long celebration under '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' to create awareness of reaching the AB-HWCs, telemedicine/ teleconsultation.
- The events will commence on **16th April** and will conclude on **22nd April 2022**.

Supreme Court reconstitutes expert committee for Delhi-Dehradun Corridor project:

- The **Supreme Court** has reconstituted the **expert committee** that would be looking into measures to ensure that the construction of the **Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway** project.
- The independent 12-member expert committee was formed by the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** to be headed by **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand.

Nation's first portable solar rooftop system unveiled in Gandhinagar:

- The country's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at **Swaminarayan Akshardham** temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The installation of **10 PV Port** systems in the temple complex has been supported by the German development agency **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended – UNFPA report

- According to the annual flagship report titled **State of World Population 2022 Seeing the Unseen : The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy** released by **UNFPA**, nearly half of all pregnancies, totalling **121 million** each year throughout the world, are unintended.

Bangladesh signs deal with Adani group for Indian Economic Zone

- The **Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)** signed an agreement with the Indian company **Adani Ports and SEZ Limited** to set up an **Indian Economic Zone** at the **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN)** in Mirsarai of Chattogram.

Nepal gets approval to export additional 325MW of electricity to India

- **Nepal** has received permission to export an **additional 325 MW of electricity** to the **energy market** in **India**, taking the **total electricity export** to **364 MW**.

Ecuador Becomes First Country to Recognise Animal Legal Rights

- Ecuador, in South America, has made history by becoming the first country to recognise the legal rights of individual wild animals.

UNDP & AIM announces \$2.2 million in climate action grants for innovators

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partners of the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM) have announced \$2.2 million in climate action grants for 22 local innovators across 19 countries, including India.

GWEC Report: Global wind energy sector needs four-fold higher growth to meet 2050 Net Zero goal

- According to the Global Wind Report for 2022 published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) Wind energy installations every year across the world must quadruple from the 94 GW installed in 2021 within this decade to meet the global climate targets.

India gets elected to 4 UN ECOSOC bodies

- India has been elected to four key bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council

4 UN ECOSOC bodies :

1. Commission for Social Development,
2. Committee on NGOs,
3. Commission on Science & Technology for Development
4. Ambassador Preeti Saran gets re-elected to Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Rajnath Singh, Jaishankar arrive US to attend India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, and S **Jaishankar**, External Affairs Minister, arrived in **Washington DC** to attend the fourth India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue.
- The two Indian ministers along with American counterparts Defence Secretary **Lloyd Austin** and Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** are set to participate in a virtual meeting from the White House.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will hold a virtual meeting with President of the USA **Joseph R. Biden** on April 11.

20th edition of India-France Joint Staff talks held in Paris

- On April 12-13, 2022, The 20th edition of India-France Joint Staff talks was held in **Paris, France**.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Assistant Chief of Integrated Staff & Air Vice Marshal **B Manikantan** and Head of Bilateral Cooperation South/Staff HQ Brigadier General **Eric Peltier**.
- The discussions focused on new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism and strengthening ongoing defence engagements.

- This partnership marks a significant step-forward in **India-France cooperation for maritime security**.

India to provide additional \$500 million to Sri Lanka for fuel

- India will provide an **additional \$500 million in financial assistance** to Sri Lanka for it to buy fuel.
- Assistance by the IMF will take about **six months** to come to us and it will come in tranches.
- This will be the **second \$500 million India** has provided in fuel credit to a Sri Lanka government battling the country's worst financial crisis in living memory.
- The first line of credit was used up earlier this month after a shipment of **120,000 tons of diesel and 40,000 tons of petrol**.

Estonia hosts the world's largest cyber exercise - Locked Shields 2022

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)** organises the **Exercise Locked Shields 2022**.
- The Locked Shields 2022 is the **annual largest and most complex international live-fire cyber defence exercise** in the world.
- More than **2,000 participants** from **32 countries** are practicing the protection of national IT systems and critical infrastructure under the pressure of a large-scale cyberattack.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : STATE NEWS

Telangana To Get World's Largest Electric 3-Wheeler Factory

- **Telangana** will get its **three-wheeler factory** soon as **California-based Biliti Electric Inc (Biliti)** intends to set up the world's largest factory in the state with a production capacity of **240,000 electric vehicles** each year.
- There will be two phases in which the facility will be built.
- **Phase I** will be developed over **13.5 acres** with the capability to produce **18,000 vehicles per year** and is expected to be operational in early 2023.
- **Phase 2**, the larger facility spread across **200 acres** will be operational in **2024**.

Assam celebrates Rongali Bohag Bihu Festival

- One of the biggest festivals of **Assam**, **Bohag Bihu** or **Rongali Bihu**, falls in the **second week of April** every year, marking the **beginning of the harvest period**.
- In 2022 Bohag Bihu observed from **April 14 to April 16**.
- The word Bihu is derived from the Sanskrit word **Bishu**, meaning "**to ask blessing and prosperity from the Gods**" before the harvest season.

Tripura govt launches new industrial investment promotion scheme

- The Tripura government launched the "Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme (TIIPIS), 2022" for the next 5 years with effect from 1 April, 2022 to 31 March, 2027.
- Under this scheme, various subsidies would be provided to companies and Self Help Groups for setting up industries in Tripura.

Minorities Rights Day to be observed annually on Dec 18

- Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Gingee K S Masthan announced every year on December 18 the Tamil Nadu government will observe as Minorities Rights Day at the state level and about Rs 2.50 lakh will be earmarked for the purpose.
- A sum of Rs 2.75 crore would be provided as aid to the students.

Rajasthan Becomes First State to Install L-Route Server

- Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to install L-Route server for uninterrupted internet services.
- This server, installed at Bhamashah State Data Center, has been installed by the government in association with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Shivamogga Airport To Be Named After Karnataka BS Yediyurappa

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the under-construction Shivamogga airport will be named after former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.
- The required proposal, to name the airport after Yediyurappa, will be sent to the civil aviation ministry.
- The project has been taken up under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) programme.
- The construction of the airport, which will have the second longest runway (3,299 meters) after Bengaluru airport, began only in 2020.

Maharashtra becomes first state in country to get 100% digital buses with 'Tap In, Tap Out' facility

- Maharashtra State Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray, inaugurated the city's first completely digital bus on the Gateway of India to Churchgate route, with a unique 'Tap-in Tap-out' feature.
- Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is India's first bus service to go completely digital.
- It provides ease and convenience to the travellers as they can tap-in using their smart card or via the 'Chalo' app installed in their smartphones.
- Initially, the 'Tap-in Tap-out' feature will be available in two buses only, but service providers are likely to deploy this digital bus service on 200 routes in the city soon.

J&K's Village Palli becomes India's first carbon-neutral panchayat

- The nondescript hamlet of **Palli** in **Jammu and Kashmir's** border district of **Samba** has become the country's first 'carbon neutral panchayat' with Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicating to the nation a **500 KV solar plant**, installed in a record time of nearly three weeks.
- Under the central government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj programme, in all **1,500 solar panels** put up in a **total area of 6,408 square metres** will provide clean electricity to **340 houses** in the model panchayat.
- The project was completed at a cost of **Rs 2.75 crore** in a record time.
- 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 radio channel for visually-impaired 'Radio Aksh' launched in Nagpur

- India's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named '**Radio Aksh**' has been launched in **Nagpur** with the **Blind Relief Association Nagpur** and **Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham)**.
- This concept was created to **help the visually-impaired gain seamless access to education resources and audiobooks**.
- Unlike FM and AM, Internet Radio has **no geographical limits** & the Content is pre-recorded.

Jharkhand's Jamtara becomes country's first district with library in every village

- **Jamtara** in **Jharkhand** has become the **only district** in the country where **all gram panchayats** have **community libraries**.
- This district with a population of about **eight lakh** has a **total of 118 gram panchayats** under **six blocks** and each panchayat has a well-equipped library which is open for students from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Agra becomes 1st city to have vacuum-based sewer systems

- **Agra** has become the **first city** in the country to have **vacuum-based sewer systems** used in **public places**.
- **Agra Smart City** has connected **240 such houses** near the **Taj Mahal** with vacuum-based sewer where conventional sewer systems can not be used.
- It has been constructed at **Rs 5 crore**.

Maharashtra launches scheme to offer personal loans for prisoners

- The **Maharashtra** government launched a **scheme to provide personal loans** for **prisoners**.
- The **Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank** will give loans under the scheme up to **Rs 50,000** at an **interest rate of 7 per cent**.

Goa CM presents the budget of Rs 24, 467crore for FY 2022-23

- Newly-elected Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** presented the state Budget of **Rs 24, 467crore** for 2022-23 in the legislative assembly.

- Gross State Domestic Product of Goa for 2022-23 - **Rs 91,416.98 crore**, a growth of 7.07 per cent.

AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually inaugurates 13 new districts

- On April 04, 2022, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually inaugurated 13 new districts and the inauguration took place via video conferencing organized at his office camp in Tadepalli in the Guntur district, AP.
- The new districts, which have been carved out from the existing 13 districts, increased the number of districts in the state to 26.

APSBB and WWF India to develop state biodiversity strategy and action plan

- The Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB), in collaboration with WWF India, will be developing the state biodiversity strategy and action plan (SBSAP) in New Delhi during a meeting presided by state Environment and Forest Minister Mama Natung.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath to launch 'School Chalo Abhiyan'

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' in a bid to ensure 100 per cent enrolment in primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh.
- It is aimed at shaping the future of primary education and the holistic development of primary schools.

MP govt launches Udyam Kranti Yojana scheme to give loan up to Rs 50L with subsidised interest rate for self-employment

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Udyam Kranti Yojana' to facilitate self-employment for the youth, in MP.

Punjab govt to issue digital sale receipts to farmers

- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government decided to provide digital J-Forms to the farmers across the state from April 1, 2022.

Tribal festival Sarhul to be celebrated in Jharkhand

- The most popular tribal celebration across the Jharkhand region, Sarhul Festival, denotes the beginning of the new year.
- It is celebrated by the tribal communities of the local Sarna religion, most notably by the Munda, Ho, and Oraon tribes.

Maharashtra & NTPC to set up ultra-mega 2500-MW solar power park

- Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) will form an equal joint venture with state-run NTPC Ltd to set up an ultra mega solar park in Maharashtra with 2500 MW generation capacity.

Karnataka establishes cooperative bank for milk producers

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Establishing the 'Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank' is a revolutionary initiative, which will provide greater financial strength for the milk producers.

Community museum inaugurated in Gya - Sasoma villages of Leh district, Ladakh

- The Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalsen inaugurated the Community Museum at Sasoma village in Gya in the direction of preserving and forwarding its rich cultural heritage to future generations.
- The Community Museum is a joint collaboration between National Museum Institute (NMI), New Delhi and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, Ladakh.
- Gya is the first village and oldest inhabitation in Upper Ladakh.

Uttarakhand govt implements Him Prahari scheme

- The Uttarakhand government has implemented the Him Prahari scheme, it is meant for ex-servicemen and youngsters.
- The scheme was announced by the BJP Uttarakhand unit in its 2022 Election Manifesto.
- Aim of the scheme is To stop the migration of people from Uttarakhand.
- An expenditure of about Rs 5 crore 45 lakh is estimated on this scheme.

Telangana govt launches Telangana's space-tech framework on metaverse

- The Telangana government launched its SpaceTech Framework, with a vision to establish the state as a globally recognised one-stop destination for space technology.
- To encourage private participation in the space industry in line with the recent reforms by the Union government.
- Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, Somanath S, Chairman, ISRO, and Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACE participated in the event.
- The space industry is expected to grow to \$558 billion by 2026.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND ECONOMY

ADB sanctions Rs 551 Cr for 3 projects : Agartala Smart City

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned an amount of \$76.25 million or Rs 551 crore for three specific projects under the Agartala Smart City Limited.

- The ADB agreed to fund **23 kilometers** of road by retrofitting **15 stretches** at a cost of **Rs 444 crore**.
- **Revive lakes and water bodies of Maharaja Bir Bikram College** and its adjoining areas at **Rs 30.67 crore**

ADB provides \$2 million loan to support urban development in Nagaland

- The **Central government** and the **Asian Development Bank** signed a **\$2 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) Loan** for designing climate resilient urban infrastructure, strengthening institutional capacity and improving municipal resource mobilization.
- **Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance who signed for the Government of India
- **Takeo Konishi**, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission who signed for ADB.
- The project aimed at **improving urban infrastructure and services in Nagaland** to help the state realize its economic potential.

ICICI Bank inks MoU with GIFT SEZ to promote global, Indian businesses

- **ICICI Bank** and **GIFT SEZ** at **GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to promote the **special economic zone** to Indian as well as global businesses including **IT, IT-enabled services and financial services**.

PNB Commemorates 128th Foundation Day: Launches Cardless Cash Withdrawal facility

- On the occasion of **128th foundation day**, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launches **Cardless Cash Withdrawal and Virtual Debit Card**, along with a range of other select digital services on its mobile app named **PNB One**, for safe banking transactions.
- The new services were launched by **Shri Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of PNB**, at the Bank's head office in New Delhi.
- On **April 12, 2022** PNB celebrated its **128th foundation day**.

Mashreq NEO ties up with Federal Bank to facilitate NR Account opening for Indians in UAE

- **Mashreq NEO**, the full-service digital bank from Mashreq Bank in Dubai, UAE has tied up with **Federal Bank** to enable **Mashreq Neo's Indian customers** to open a Non-Resident account In India, instantly via the **Neo app**.
- To leverage the open banking construct to simplify the customer onboarding journey and **deliver real-time account opening experience** for customers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches digital platform for business banking

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched **Kotak FYN**, its new enterprise portal exclusive for business banking and corporate clients.

- The bank's customers can use the portal to carry out **all trade and services transactions**.

World Bank Lowers India GDP Growth Forecast To 8% In FY23

- According to the **World Bank's bi-annual "South Asia Economic Focus" report**, it has cut India's **GDP** forecast for **fiscal year 2022-23 to 8% from 8.7%** predicted **earlier**, citing the impact of the war in Ukraine, high global oil prices, elevated inflation and supply disruptions.

PhonePe partners with Extreme IX to reduce latency during transactions

- **PhonePe**, one app for all things money, and **Extreme IX**, an Indian internet exchange point, have joined hands to form a partnership that will enable a faster digital payments experience for over **370 million PhonePe users**.
- PhonePe has become the **first digital payments platform** to participate in an Internet Exchange in India.
- Extreme IX has **30 points** of presence in **five cities** in India & more than **450 networks**.

Centre infuses ₹5,000 crore into 3 state-run insurance companies - NICL, OICL & UIICs

- The Center has raised the authorized capital of **₹5,000 crore** in three public sector insurance companies namely **Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL)**, **National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NICL)** and **United India Insurance Co. Ltd. (UICL)** – to enable subscription of capital.
- Of that ₹5,000 crore, ie **₹3,700 crore in NICL**, **₹1,200 crore in OICL** and **Rs 100 crore in UICL**
- A notification issued by the finance ministry stated that for **NICL** the authorized capital will now be **₹15,000 crore from 7,500 crore**, for **OICL** it will be **₹7,500 crore from ₹5,000 crore** and for **UICL**, authorized capital has been raised to **₹7,500 crore from ₹5,000 crore**.

Govt amends FEMA rules to allow 20% FDI in LIC

- The **government** has amended rules of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)**, paving the way for up to **20 per cent foreign direct investment** in the insurance behemoth **LIC**.

RBI Certifies 121 Finance As NBFC-Factor After Revised Registration Of Factors Regulations

- The **fintech firm 121 Finance** has become **India's first NBFC (Non Banking Financial Company) -factor** to receive the **certificate of registration under registration of factors (Reserve Bank) regulations, 2022**
- To deliver the **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** experience for seamless Working Capital solutions to **MSMEs**

Nexo launches world's first card with Mastercard and DiPocket

- **Nexo**, the leading regulated institution for digital assets, officially launched the **Nexo Card**, a first-of-its-kind crypto-backed **Mastercard & DiPocket**, in selected **European markets**.

- The Nexo Card is the **first card** in the world that allows users to spend without having to sell their digital assets.

SBI raises USD 500 million through IFSC Gift City branch

- India's largest public lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has raised **3-year funds of \$500 million (over Rs 3,800 crore)** through its **IFSC Gift City branch**.
- This is the **first offshore USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** linked syndicated loan raised by SBI through its Gift City branch.
- The facility is for **\$400 million, plus \$100 million** as a green shoe option.

RBI imposes Rs 17.63 lakh monetary penalty on Manappuram Finance for non-compliance of KYC, PPI norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **fine of over Rs 17,63,965** on non-banking finance company **Manappuram Finance** for violating **KYC guidelines** as well as norms related to prepaid payment instruments.
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in **RBI under Section 30** of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

Google Pay ties up with Pine Labs to Launch 'Tap To Pay' Feature For UPI

- **Google Pay** has partnered with **Pine Labs** to launch **Tap to Pay for UPI** - a functionality that aims to bring the seamless convenience of Tap to Pay to UPI.
- So far, Tap to Pay was **only available for cards**.

Central Bank of India partners Kwik.ID to digitize customer onboarding

- State-owned **Central Bank of India** has selected **Kwik.ID** to implement digital **know your customer (KYC)**, **video KYC** and **eKYC** for its network across India.

HDFC ERGO Launches VAULT, an Industry-first Digitally-enabled Rewards Program

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co.** has launched a digital customer engagement and rewards programme - **VAULT** an industry-first **digital customer engagement and rewards program**.

HDFC Bank & Shoppers Stop Launch Co-Branded Credit Cards

- **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private sector bank and **Shoppers Stop**, India's leading fashion and beauty destination have joined hands to launch **co-branded credit cards**.

ADB projects India's economy to grow by 7.5% in FY23

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has projected the GDP growth rate of the Indian economy, in its flagship **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022** projected India's economic growth for the year **2022-23 (FY23) – 7.5 percent & 2023-24 (FY24) – 8.0 percent**.

World Bank slashes global growth forecast to 3.2% for 2022 from 4.1%

- The World Bank lowered its annual global growth forecast for 2022 to 3.2% due to the impacts from Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the world economy.
- Earlier this was estimated at 4.1%.

IMF cuts India's FY23 GDP forecast to 8.2% from 9%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest World Economic Outlook report, slashed the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India in FY23 to 8.2 percent.
- Earlier in the January 2022 report, this was estimated at 9 percent.

Russian Central Bank Registers New Payment System HELLO

- The Central Bank of Russia (CBR) has registered a new payment system called HELLO to the national register of credit institutions.
- The system's payment infrastructure services will be operated by the Russian commercial bank TransCapitalBank.

India Post Payments Bank launches Fincluvation'

- On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence & ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% government owned entity under Department of Posts (DoP) has launched Fincluvation—a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.

BHIM UPI goes live at NeoPay terminals in UAE

- NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India, has announced that BHIM UPI is now live at NEOPAY terminals across the UAE.
- It will empower millions of Indians who travel to the UAE, to safely and conveniently make payments using BHIM UPI.
- In 2021, NIPL and NEOPAY, the payment subsidiary of Mashreq Bank, partnered to create the acceptance infrastructure in the UAE.
- This partnership will play a key role in transforming the P2M payment experience for Indian travelers in the UAE.

SEBI Issues Rs 2 Crore Recovery Notice To Former NSE Chief Ravi Narain

- Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** sent a fine of **₹2.06 crore** to former **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** chief Ravi Narain in a case related to governance lapses at the stock exchange.
- SEBI directed Narain to pay **₹2.06 crore**, which includes interest and recovery cost, **within 15 days**.

SIDBI Provides 1st approval of Rs 600 cr for industrial cluster development in Maharashtra

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India** has provided the approval for **Rs 600 crore** to the **Maharashtra** government under the **SIDBI Cluster Development Fund(SCDF)**.
- An in-principle approval letter for an amount of Rs 600 crore for reviving and upgrading various ITIs /polytechnics under the **SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF)**.
- These institutions are being run by the **Directorate of Vocational Education and Training** under the **Department of Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation of Maharashtra**.

SEBI imposes Rs 40 lakh on 4 entities over violation of market norms

- Capital markets regulator **SEBI** imposed penalties totalling **Rs 40 lakh on 4 entities** for failing to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act and public issue norms.
- Through this , the regulator imposed a fine of **Rs 10 lakh each** on **HPC Biosciences Limited, Tarun Chauhan, Madhu Anand and Arun Kumar Gupta**.

Dhanlaxmi Bank signs MoU with CBDT and CBIC

- **Dhanlaxmi Bank** signed an **MOU** with **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** and **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** for collection of Direct Taxes and Indirect Taxes.
- Bank has been authorised by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** based on the recommendation from the **Controller General of Accounts** for collection of various Taxes.

Signatories :

- **Shri Shivan J K, Managing Director & CEO of the Bank** and **Ms. Bharati Das, The Principal Chief Controller of Accounts- for CBDT** and **Shri Dhruva Kumar Singh, Chief Controller of Accounts - for CBIC** in **New Delhi**.

Airtel Payments Bank tie up with IndusInd Bank to offer FD facility

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **IndusInd Bank** to offer **fixed deposit (FD)** facilities to its customers.
- The payments bank's customers can open FDs starting from **₹500 up to ₹190,000** in a few minutes through a digital process on the **Airtel Thanks** mobile application.

- With this partnership, Airtel Payments Bank's savings account customers will get an interest rate of up to **6.5 per cent per annum** and senior citizens will get an additional 0.5 per cent on all fixed deposits.

Suryoday SFB partners Kyndryl to drive digital, IT transformation

- Suryoday SFB has chosen Kyndryl the world's largest IT infrastructure services provider, to drive its technology transformation program, improve operational efficiency, and increase digital banking adoption among its customers as part of a 5 year transformation partnership

FinMapp ties up with Bajaj Finance to launch fixed deposit feature

- Fintech firm **FinMapp** has collaborated with **Bajaj Finance** to launch a **fixed deposit feature** on its application by adding a new icon for an improved customer experience.
- The fintech firm is offering to provide an **interest rate of 7.35 percent** on the fixed deposit of app users.

SBI Card Partners with TCS to revamp digital experience

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** is expanding its strategic partnership with **SBI Cards and Payments Services Ltd.**, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, to power the latter's next leg of digital transformation.
- It will enable SBI Card to further expand its **e-card issuance**, **delighting end customers** and giving it a competitive edge in the market.

BoB launches bob World Gold for Senior Citizens

- **Bank of Baroda** has launched a new feature '**bob World Gold**' on its bob World mobile banking platform designed especially for **seniors** and the **elderly**.
- Bob World Gold is a unique **digital banking platform** that has been designed especially for this demographic and provides its senior customers with a **simple, smooth** and **secure mobile banking experience**.

Pencilton Launches PencilKey Contactless RuPay Card

- **Pencilton**, a teen-focused fintech startup, has launched **PencilKey**, a **Nationwide Widespread Mobility Card (NCMC)** compliant **RuPay** contactless keychain, in partnership with **Nationwide Funds Company of India (NPCI)** and **Transcorp**.

ICICI Securities partners with Coverstack to offer insurance

- Financial products distributor **ICICIdirect** entered a partnership with digital B2B platform for insurance services **CoverStack** under which the entire customer journey on **icicidirect.com** for insurance products will be powered by CoverStack.

World Bank & AIIB to give Rs 7,500 cr loan for Mission School of Excellence project in Gujarat

- The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide a loan of Rs 7,500 crore for the Gujarat government's Mission School of Excellence project.

RBI Monetary Policy: Repo rates unchanged at 4%; GDP growth projected at 7.2%

- On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Reserve Bank of India conducted its first Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting for 2022-23 between April 6- 8, 2022.

RBI imposes monetary penalties on Axis Bank, IDBI Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties of Rs 93 lakh and Rs 90 lakh on Axis Bank and IDBI Bank, respectively, for non-compliance of certain directions issued by RBI.

Two separate SEBI panels to review ownership norms of Sponsor & Trustees

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has set up two separate expert groups to examine the roles, eligibility criteria and functions of sponsors and trustees at asset management companies (AMCs)

ADB, French firm LDC ink pact for USD 100 mn loan to help small farmers

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Louis Dreyfus Company BV (LDC) have signed a loan of up to \$100 million to help smallholder farmers in countries, including India and Pakistan recover from the economic challenges caused by Covid-19 and improve resilience to climate change impacts

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank launches new deposit scheme - Vikas Siri Sampat-1111'

- Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank P. Gopi Krishna launched a new deposit scheme of the bank, Vikas Siri Sampat-1111.

Tata AIA Life Insurance tie up with CSC for making insurance accessible to rural India

- One of India's fastest growing life insurers, Tata AIA Life Insurance Co Ltd, has partnered with Common Services Centers (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT to engage its network of over 4 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plans.

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

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement with the Government of India to offer a \$2 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan.

Nabet India Partners with PNB Housing Finance Ltd for a unique employment generation program for women:

- Nabet India and PNB Housing Finance Pvt Ltd joined hands to carry out a special women's health and wellness initiative.

Sebi imposes penalties worth Rs 25 lakh on 5 entities for non-genuine trades

- Capital markets regulator **Sebi** imposed fines totaling **Rs 25 lakh on five entities** for conducting **non-genuine trades** in the illiquid stock option segment in BSE.
- In five separate orders, the regulator imposed a fine of **Rs 5 lakh each** on **Abhishek Kumar Jain huff, Ajay Kumar Baid, Sumit Shankar Dudani, Sumer Chand Jain and Sons and Milestone Viniyog Pvt Ltd.**

ADB, HSBC tie-up to set up \$100M partial guarantee programme for MFI

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **HSBC India** have signed an agreement to establish a **\$100 million partial-guarantee programme** to support **more than 400,000 (0.4 million) micro-borrowers** and mostly women-run microenterprises across India.
- It is ADB's **first** partnership with HSBC India.

FinMapp gets licence from PFRDA and Irdai to sell NPS, insurance

- Financial services company **FinMapp** has received a licence from **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** under the **National Pension Scheme (NPS)**.

RBI extends timelines for banks to use lockable cassettes in ATMs by March 2023

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has extended the **timeline for implementation of cassette swap** in all ATMs by banks by one year till **March 31, 2023**.

RBI fixes WMA limit for states at Rs 47,010 cr

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to **reduce the Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for states and Union Territories to **Rs 47,010 crore from Rs 51,560 crore**, in view of improvement in the pandemic situation.

RBI announces WMA Limit for Government of India for the first half of the Financial Year 2022-23

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced the **limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the **first half** of the financial year 2022-23 (April 2022 to September 2022) will be **₹1,50,000 crore**.

India's First KYC Compliant Crypto Token – Redemption

- **Redemption Digital Technology Private Limited** has **soft-launched India's first KYC-compliant crypto token – Redemption**.
- It's a **unique crypto token** with which users can earn investing time, instead of money.

SEBI launches “Manthan”- ideathon to promote innovation in the Securities Market

- **Chairperson of SEBI Madhabi Puri Buch** in association with the other market infrastructure institutions and **QRTAs**, has announced the launch of ‘**Manthan**’, an Ideathon for supporting new ideas and innovations in the securities market.

FICCI Economic Outlook Survey Projects India’s GDP growth rate for FY23 at 7.4%

- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Economic Outlook Survey** has estimated India’s **GDP** to grow at **7.4%** in the **financial year 2022-23 (FY23)** with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of **6.0 per cent and 7.8 per cent**, respectively.

Aegon Life partners Ahalia Finforex to offer insurance cover to unserved segment

- **Aegon Life**, a digital life insurance company, **has partnered Ahalia Finforex**, a Kerala-based diversified financial services firm, **to provide life insurance access to the unorganized and unserved segments residing in tier 2, tier 3, and tier 4 towns.**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

WTO cuts global trade growth forecast to 3% in 2022:

- The **World Trade Organization** has slashed its forecast for global trade growth this year to **3% from 4.7%** due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and warned against the global economy dividing into rival blocs because of the conflict.
- **By 2023, this merchandise trade volume growth is projected at 3.4%.**

India’s Retail Inflation Rose to 6.95% in March:

- **India’s annual retail inflation** shot up to a **17-month high in March** while factory output contracted sequentially in February, complicating policy choices for the central bank.
- The data released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** showed that the **retail inflation rate rose to 6.95 per cent in March** from a year ago, remaining above the tolerance limit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the **third straight month.**

Sebi rejigs Advisory Panel on Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions:

- **Sebi has reconstituted its advisory committee**, which provides guidance on enhancing the **regulator’s technological capabilities** and on exploring appropriate technological solutions for the early detection of market anomalies.

- The Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) will now be headed by **Sunil Bajpai**, former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) at the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**.

Department of Posts starts providing NPS services through online mode:

- **Department of Posts** has started providing the **National Pension Scheme, NPS**, services through online mode.
- Any Citizen of India in the **age group of 18 to 70 years** can avail this online facility by visiting the website www.indiapost.gov.in under the menu head "**National Pension System - Online Services**."

India's trade deficit rises 88% to \$192.41 billion in FY22:

- India's trade deficit rose 87.5 per cent to **USD 192.41 billion** in 2021-22 as against **USD 102.63 billion** in the previous year, the government data showed.
- While total exports during last fiscal year increased to a record high of **USD 417.81 billion**, imports too soared to **USD 610.22 billion**, leaving a trade gap of **USD 192.41 billion**.

India's gold imports increased by 33.34% to Rs 46.14 billion in 2021-22:

- India's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), rose by **33.34 per cent** to **USD 46.14 billion** during 2021-22 fiscal on account of higher demand.
- Gold imports were worth **USD 34.62 billion** in 2020-21.

Deadline to link PAN with Aadhaar ends on March 31st:

- The deadline to link a permanent account number (PAN) with Aadhaar will end on **March 31**.

Govt to sell upto 1.5% stake in ONGC via OFS for Rs 3000 crores:

- The government plans to sell upto **1.5% equity stake** in state-run oil and gas giant **ONGC Ltd** via an offer for sale of equity shares over two days beginning on **March 29**, to raise upto **Rs 3,000 crore**.

IDBI Bank to sell stake in life insurance JV to Ageas:

- Indian private lender **IDBI Bank** has announced plans to sell its stake in the life insurance joint venture with **Ageas Insurance International** and **Federal Bank**.
- The deal will see **IDBI Bank** exit **Ageas Federal Life Insurance (AFLI)**, which was formerly called **IDBI Federal Life Insurance (IFLI)**.

MG Motor India launches MG e-Pay: Industry's 1st End-to-End Online Auto Finance Platform:

- **MG Motor India** has announced the launch of e-Pay, a one-stop online car finance platform for an end-to-end digital auto finance process that provides instant loan approvals.
- The automaker has partnered with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime and Axis Bank to offer instant financing options under the facility.

Ergos Launches “GrainBank Loyalty Cards for Farmers”:

- The commodity market is a buzz again with **Wheat and Maize** harvesting in the field and sales starting on the Tech platform 'GrainBank' (developed by Ergos).

HDFC to merge with HDFC Bank to create third most valuable company in the country:

- **HDFC Limited** will merge with **HDFC Bank**, creating a banking behemoth.
- The merger is set to make the company the third most valuable in the country.

SBI signs MoU with Border Security Force to offer special benefits through CAPSP Scheme:

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Border Security Force** to offer special benefits to the serving and retired **BSF** personnel and family pensioners through the **Central Armed Police Salary Package (CAPSP)** Scheme.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Punjab cadre ex-IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura reappointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Minorities

- The central government has re-appointed retired Punjab-cadre IPS officer **Iqbal Singh Lalpura** as the chairperson of the **National Commission for Minorities** for a period of 3 years from the date of assumption of office.
- He replaced **Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi**
- The Union Government set up the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** under the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**.

Patrick Achi re appointed as PM of Cote d'Ivoire

- Cote d'Ivoire's Président Alassane Ouattara has re appointed Patrick Achi as new Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire.
- He presented his resignation on April 13 in Abidjan and that of his government following the will of Alassane Ouattara to carry out a reorganization of the government team.

Senior IAS officer Naresh Kumar appointed Delhi chief secretary, Vijay Dev to head State Election Commission

- According to an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Senior IAS officer Naresh Kumar has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Delhi.
- He will take charge on April 21, 2022.
- Kumar will replace incumbent Vijay Dev, who will retire voluntarily on April 20, 2022.

Indian-American Navy Veteran Shanti Sethi Appointed as Kamala Harris's Defence Adviser

- Indian-American US Navy Shanti Sethi has been appointed as executive secretary and defence advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris.
- Sethi is the only Indian-American woman and the 15th female officer to command a major US Navy combat warship.
- She was also the first female commander of a US naval vessel to visit India.
- Kamala Harris is the first-ever person of Indian origin to be elected as the Vice President of the United States.

Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar appointed as next Director-General of military operations

- Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar has been appointed as the next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO).
- He will be taking over the office on May 1, 2022.
- Presently, he is the General Officer Commanding of 1 Corps, a strike formation responsible for offensive operations against both Pakistan and China.

P&G India appoints L V Vaidyanathan as CEO for India operations

- Packaged consumer goods company Procter & Gamble appointed LV Vaidyanathan as chief executive officer for its operations in India from July 1, 2022.
- He will take over from Madhusudan Gopalan.
- Currently LV Vaidyanathan is leading P&G business in Indonesia as CEO where he has been "responsible for industry-leading growth and value creation for the company."

Babita Singh named as the New Global Peace Ambassador 2022

- Serial entrepreneur **Babita Singh** has been conferred as a **Global Peace Ambassador** for promoting Peace through Education, Sports, Art, Culture & Diplomacy at the **India International Conclave 2022** held in collaboration with **Asia Africa Consortium (AAC)** took place in **Shangrila, New Delhi**.
- She was conferred for her exemplary contribution for her Peace building initiatives via Sports & Culture.

Renowned physicist Ajay Sood appointed as Principal Scientific Advisor To GoI

- One of India's leading physicists and a professor at the **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** **Ajay Kumar Sood** has been appointed as the **principal scientific advisor (PSA)** to the government of India for a period of **three years**.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of Sood as principal scientific advisor to the government.
- He will succeed renowned biologist **Prof K Vijay Raghavan**.

Govt Appoints C Muhammed Faizi as Member of Haj Committee of India

- In exercise of the powers conferred by **Section 3, 4, 5 and 6 read with Section 15 (1) of the Haj Committee Act, 2002(35 of 2002)**, the Central Government, has appointed **C Muhammed Faizi** as a member of the **Haj Committee of India** for a period of **3 years with effect from April 21, 2022 up to March 31, 2025**.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs, in a gazette notification, mentions the appointment of Faizi as a member of the Haj Committee of India "**under sub-section (11), of Section 4 of Haj Committee Act, 2002**".

Economist Dr. Suman K Bery appointed new vice chairman of Niti Aayog

- The Central government appointed **Suman K Bery** as the **vice chairman of Niti Aayog** with effect from **May 01, 2022**.
- He will succeed **Dr. Rajiv Kumar** will be relieved from his post on **30th April 2022**.
- Earlier, Bery served as **Director General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)**, a position he held for a decade from **2001 to 2011**.

CEO Of Capgemini India Ashwin Yardi Joins UNICEF YuWaah Board As Co-Chair

- **YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India)** in India announced that **Ashwin Yardi**, CEO of Capgemini in India, comes on board to be the co-chair of YuWaah, effective immediately along with **Yasumasa Kimura**, UNICEF Representative.

France's Emmanuel Macron Wins 2nd Term as President

- French President **Emmanuel Macron** won re-election after defeating his rival **Marine Le Pen**

- Centrist Macron was set to win around **58 percent** of the vote in the second-round run-off compared with Le Pen on **42 percent**
- French Presidential Elections 2022 were held on **April 10-24, 2022**.
- Macron became the **first President** in France in 20 years to win the re-election.

BJP's AP Abdullakutty to be new chairperson of central Haj committee

- BJP national vice-president **AP Abdullakutty** has been selected as the **chairman of Central Haj Committee**.
- Abdullakutty was elected as a representative of the Central Government under **sub-section 4 (c) of section 4 of the Hajj Committee Act**.
- For the **first time**, two women were elected as its **vice-chairpersons**— **Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun**.

Slovenia election - Liberal newcomer Robert Golob defeats three-time PM Janez Jana

- In **Slovenia**, political newcomer **liberal Robert Golob** has defeated **three-time prime minister, populist conservative Janez Janša** association with **Slovenian Democratic party**.
- State election authorities stated that, after counting over **97 percent of the ballots**, the Freedom Movement won nearly **34 percent of the votes**, compared to around 24 percent for the governing conservative Slovenian Democratic Party.

Generali Asia appoints Bruce de Broize as MD and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance

- Generali Asia has appointed **Bruce de Broize** as managing director and chief executive officer, Future Generali India Life Insurance (FGILI).
- He will take over from **Miranjit Mukherjee** who has been serving as interim CEO since September 2021.

Nasscom Appoints Krishnan Ramanujam as Chairperson for 2022-23

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), has appointed **Krishnan Ramanujam**, president, Enterprise Growth Group at Tata Consultancy Services, as its chairperson for 2022-23.
- Ramanujam succeeds **Rekha M. Menon**, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India.
- Previously Krishnan served as the **Vice-Chairperson of NASSCOM**.

Vijay Sampla appointed as chairperson of NCSC

- BJP leader and former Union minister **Vijay Sampla** has been appointed as the **chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** for a second time.
- The official order for his appointment was issued by **President Ram Nath Kovind**.

Mahesh Verma has been appointed as the chairperson of NABH

- **Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University vice-chancellor Mahesh Verma** has been appointed the new chairman of the **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare providers (NABH)**.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah appointed as Member Board Representative of ICC Cricket Committee

- **BCCI secretary Jay Shah** has been appointed as the member board representative to the **ICC Cricket Committee**.
- Meanwhile **Mahela Jayawardene** (former Sri Lankan cricketer) was reappointed as the former player representative

Lloyd appoints Sourav Ganguly as brand ambassador for Eastern Indian markets

- The consumer durables brand of electrical goods major **Havells India**, **Lloyd** has appointed **Sourav Ganguly** as its brand ambassador for the **Eastern Indian markets**.

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas gets 1-yr extension

- The government has granted an extension of **one year** to **Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas**.
- The **Appointment Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the extension in service to **Vyas** for a period of one year beyond **May 3, 2022** or “until further orders”.
- This is the **second extension** for **Vyas**, who was **first appointed** to the post in **September 2018** for a period up to **May 3, 2021**.

Yemeni president Abdrabbuh Hadi steps down as President of Yemen

- **Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi** stepped down from his position under pressure from **Saudi Arabia**.
- He was the **vice president** to **Ali Abdullah Saleh** from 1994 to 2012.
- He had served as the **president of Yemen** from 2012 until 2022.

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

- **Lieutenant General Manoj Pande** appointed the **new Chief of Army Staff**.
- He will **succeed General M M Naravane** who will retire on **April 30, 2022**.
- **Lt Gen Manoj Pande** would be the **29th COAS**.
- The **Vice Chief of Army Staff**, **Lt General Pande** will be the **first officer** from the **Corps of Engineers** to become the **COAS**.

Digit Insurance appoints Jasleen Kohli as new MD and CEO

- **Digit Insurance** has appointed **Jasleen Kohli** as the **new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company with effect from **April 20**.

- She will take over from **Vijay Kumar** who held the position since the company was founded in 2017 & he will superannuate on April 19, 2022.

Ex-chief justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed as caretaker PM

- **Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan** nominated former chief justice **Gulzar Ahmed** as caretaker Prime Minister.
- This comes a day after the National Assembly deputy speaker disallowed a no-trust confidence motion against **Imran Khan**.

RBI approves re-appointment of Murali M. Natrajan as MD & CEO of DCB Bank for two years

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **Murli M Natarajan** as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of DCB Bank for a period of two years, from April 29, 2022 to April 28, 2024.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla To Be India's G20 Chief Coordinator

- Foreign secretary **Harshvardhan Shringla** has been appointed Chief Coordinator G20 Summit.
- His appointment is effective from **May 01, 2022** & will hold the post till **Dec 2023**.

Dr Manoj Soni appointed as Chairman of UPSC

- **Dr Manoj Soni** was appointed as the **Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
- He has been appointed to replace the previous UPSC chairman **Pradip Kumar Joshi**.
- Dr Soni will have a tenure of upto **June 27, 2023**.

Shehbaz Sharif elected as new prime minister of Pakistan

- **Pakistan's parliament** has elected **Shehbaz Sharif** as the country's **new prime minister** through voting in the National Assembly.
- He will **succeed Imran Khan**, who has been removed by a no-trust vote.

PM of Malta Robert Abela sworn in for second term

- **Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela** has been sworn in for a second term after his ruling Labor Party won the 2022 general election in a landslide victory.

Payments Council of India re-elects Vishwas Patel as chairman

- **Payments Council of India (PCI)**, a payments ecosystem industry body and a part of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** has re-elected **Vishwas Patel** as the chairman of PCI for the second term in 2022.

IFS officer Renu Singh appointed Forest Research Institute (FRI) director

- On 28th March, 2022 the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, Government of India, New Delhi appointed **Dr. Renu Singh** as **Director** of the premier Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

NATO extends Stoltenberg's term as Secretary-General by one year 2023

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** extended the term of **Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg** by a year until **September 30, 2023**.
- His term was to expire in September 2021 & It is the **second time** that his term of office has been extended.

India's Aprajita Sharma appointed as VC of ITU's Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management

- India's **Aprajita Sharma**, has been appointed as the **vice-chairperson** of **Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management** of **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

Dr. S. Raju to take charge as DG of Geological Survey of India (GSI)

- **Dr.S. Raju**, has taken over the charge of **Director General (DG)** of **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** with effect from **April 01, 2022**.
- He succeeds **Shri R. S. Garkhal** who superannuated on **March 31, 2022**.

Indian Climate Expert Arunabha Ghosh appointed to high-level expert group on net-zero emissions commitments

- **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** has appointed **Dr Arunabha Ghosh** to his new '**High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities**'.
- The group will help in developing stronger and clearer standards for net-zero emissions pledges by non-State entities such as businesses, investors, cities and regions.

Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund appoints Anthony Heredia as MD & CEO

- **Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund**, a joint venture of **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited** (Mahindra Finance) and **Manulife Investment Management (Singapore) Pvt Ltd** announced the appointment of **Anthony Heredia** as the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Mahindra Manulife Investment Management Private Limited**, effective **April 1**.

UN rights body appoints Tuvalu negotiator Dr Ian Fry as climate change expert

- The UN's top rights body **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** has appointed **Dr Ian Fry** as an **expert on climate change and human rights** for the first time.
- He has been appointed for a period of **three years**.

Hungary PM Viktor Orban wins fourth term

- In Hungary, nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban won a fourth successive term in the General election.
- Preliminary results showed Orban's Fidesz party leading with 53.1% of votes versus 35% for Marki-Zay's opposition alliance of 98% of the count.

Vinay Mohan Kwatra appointed as India's new Foreign Secretary

- On April 04, 2022, The Indian government appointed senior Indian Foreign Service officer Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the new foreign secretary.
- He replaced incumbent Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, a 1984-batch IFS officer who will superannuate on April 30, 2022.

Vikas Kumar takes charge as 3rd MD of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)

- Vikas Kumar, a 1988-batch officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).
- Kumar is taking over the post from Dr. Mangu Singh, whose tenure ended on March 31, 2022.

PharmEasy appoints Aamir Khan as brand ambassador

- Consumer healthcare app PharmEasy has launched its latest campaign #GharBaitheBaitheTakeItEasy featuring Bollywood star Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador.

Serbia's Aleksandar Vucic re elected for 2nd term in presidential election

- Serbia's incumbent president, Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) Aleksandar Vucic, He has secured 59.5% of votes in a presidential election, the State Election Commission stated after counting 87.67% of ballots.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOUR

Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar wins the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Award 2021

- At the 23rd edition of the EY Entrepreneur of The Year India awards, Founder and CEO of Nykaa, Falguni Nayar has been named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021.
- Nayar will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award on June 9, 2022 in Monaco.
- Meanwhile A M Naik, Group Chairman, Larsen & Toubro, who was felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Indian-American defence expert Vivek Lall to receive Entrepreneur Leadership Award 2022

- Indian-American chief executive of General Atomics Global Corporation Vivek Lall has been selected for the prestigious Entrepreneur Leadership Awards - Global Leader in Defence & Aviation Sector by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) for recognition of his contribution in the defence sector.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia will be the Chief Guest of the event.

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy gets John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is among five people being named as recipients of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for acting to protect democracy.

Other 4 people :

- Republican U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming
- Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson
- Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers and Fulton County, Georgia,
- Elections worker Wandrea "Shaye" Moss.
- Caroline Kennedy and her son, Jack Schlossberg, will present the awards May 22 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

Sir David Attenborough bestowed as champions of the Lifetime Achievement award 2021

- The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that Sir David Attenborough is the recipient of the Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.
- 2022 marks fifty years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, which was one of the first international meetings on the environment.

AAP's Raghav Chadha, Ukrainian minister Fedorov in 2022 WEF's Young Global Leaders list

- 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.
- The list includes athlete Manasi Joshi, Innov8 Coworking founder Ritesh Malik, BharatPe CEO Suhail Sameer, Sugar Cosmetics CEO Vineeta Singh and Global Himalayan Expedition CEO Jaideep Bansal.

NMDC Conferred at PRSI Awards 2022

- The National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), has achieved the Public Relations Awards 2022 conferred by Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), winning the first position in four categories.
- Telangana Minister of Prohibition & Excise, Sports & Youth Services, Tourism & Culture, Shri V Srinivas Goud presented the award to NMDC's Shri Praveen Kumar, ED (Personnel) and Shri Ch. Srinivasa Rao,

DGM (Corporate Communications) received the awards on behalf of the Navratna PSU. Shri Srinivasa Rao, DGM (Corporate Communications) received the awards on behalf of the Navratna PSU.

Meghalaya govt's e-Proposal System' wins UN Award

- The Meghalaya government's Planning Department's key initiative of "e-Proposal System", wins the coveted UN Award – World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum Prizes 2022.
- Meghalaya has been selected by the UN as Champion Project in the category of "The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies for development," along with projects from Australia, China, Argentina and Tanzania.
- The "e-Proposal System", part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), eliminates 75 percent physical work of files in government departments.
- MeghEA is a flagship initiative of Meghalaya Government, supported by National e-Gov Division (NeGD), a first of its kind in the country.

Bidyanondo Founder Kishor Kumar Das Received 223rd Commonwealth Points of Light Award

- Kishor Kumar Das, the founder of the humanitarian organization Bidyanondo, has been awarded the 223rd Commonwealth Point of Light.

Ardeshir B K Dubash conferred the Order of Merit in the Diplomatic Service of Peru Jose Gregorio Paz Soldan from Government of Peru

- The former Honorary Consul of Peru in Mumbai, Mr. Ardeshir B.K. Dubash, received the Order of "Merit in the Diplomatic Service of Peru José Gregorio Paz Soldán", the highest distinction conferred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.
- The award was conferred by the Ambassador of Peru in India, H.E. Carlos R. Polo who travelled from Delhi to Mumbai for this special occasion, bringing the decoration issued by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, H.E. Cesar Landa.

Mumbai and Hyderabad get 2021 Tree City of the World' by UN-FAO

- Mumbai and Hyderabad have been jointly recognised as '2021 Tree City of the World' by The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Arbor Day Foundation.
- For a second consecutive year, Hyderabad has been recognised as a 'Tree City of the World'
- National Arbor Day is observed on April 29, 2022 & the day was celebrated last Friday in April every year.

Vice President presents the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu conferred the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 to Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh under the Indian nomination (individual) category and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat under the institutional category in New Delhi.
- The annual award was instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.

PM Modi awarded with inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to be honoured with the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award, at the 80th annual Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony.
- The award was instituted in the memory and honour of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar who passed away at the age of 92 years in Mumbai.
- April 24, 2022 marks the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar, the father of Late Lata Mangeshkar.

Prabhat Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022

- Renowned Indian economist and political commentator Prabhat Patnaik has been selected for the 2022 Malcom Adiseshiah Award.
- The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist selected from nominations received by a specially constituted national jury.
- The first Malcolm Adiseshiah Award was given in 2001 and so far we have given 21 awards.
- The award was named after educator & Indian development economist Malcom Sathiyathan Adiseshiah

IndusInd Bank Bags Global 'Celent Model Bank' Award for Its Enterprise Payments Hub Initiative

- IndusInd Bank has been awarded the global 'Celent Model Bank' award under the category – 'Payments System Transformation' for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH).

Civil Aviation Ministry's "UDAN" scheme selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category "Innovation (General) – Central".
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation will receive the award on 21st April, i.e. Civil Service Day.

Chief of Army staff presents President's colours to Dogra Regiment

- General MM Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to two battalions of the Dogra Regiment, namely 20 DOGRA and 21 DOGRA during an impressive Colour Presentation Parade held at the Dogra Regimental Centre, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Prof Wilfried Brutsaert bags Stockholm Water Prize 2022

- The Stockholm Water Prize 2022 has been awarded by The **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** in cooperation with the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** to Professor **Wilfried Brutsaert** for his innovative advertisement evaluating environmental evaporation.

Famous poet & litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra selected for Saraswati Samman 2021

- **Noted poet and litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra** has been selected for the prestigious **Saraswati Samman, 2021**.
- He has been selected for this prestigious literary award for his Hindi poetry collection '**Mein to Yahan Hun**', which was published in **2015**.

Picture Of Dresses On Crosses Wins 2022 World Press Photo of the Year

- A photograph Kamloops Residential School has won the **2022 World Press Photo of the Year** award was captured by Canadian photojournalist **Amber Jacken**.
- It is a haunting image of red dresses hung on crosses along a roadside, with a rainbow in the background, commemorating children who died of maltreatment, neglect and disease at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia in 2021.

Veteran Bengali Author Amar Mitra Wins Prestigious 2022 O. Henry Prize for short stories

- **Famous Bengali author Amar Mitra** was awarded with the prestigious **2022 O. Henry Prize for short stories**.
- He has won for his work titled "**The Old Man of Kusumpur**", originally written in Bengali with the title **Gaonburo**, 45 years back in **1977**.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu confers Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowships and Awards

- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** conferred the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Sangeet Natak Awards** for the year **2018** and **National Awards of Lalit Kala Akademi** to eminent artists at a special function held in **New Delhi**.

ACI - List of top 10 busiest airports in the world 2021

- The **Airports Council International (ACI) World** published the list of the **top 10 busiest airports** in the world for the year **2021**.
- **Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** regains the top position on the list with **75.7 million passengers** as the busiest airport in the world, followed by **Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport** **62.5 million passengers** and **Denver International Airport** **58.8 million passengers**.

NMDC Wins SKOCH Awards 2022 at 80th SKOCH Summit 2022

- The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), under the Ministry of Steel, was awarded one gold and one silver award in the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards in New Delhi.
- The theme for the SKOCH Summit was 'State of BFSI & PSUs'.

HDFC Bank adjudged best performing bank in SHG linkage by NRLM

- HDFC Bank has been adjudged the Best Performing Bank in SHG Linkage by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India at a function organised at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The award was presented by Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development to K Venkatesh, Head – Sustainable Livelihood Initiative, HDFC Bank.

64th Annual Grammy Awards 2022

- The 64th Annual Grammy Awards were held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- It recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year, running from September 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021.

Journalist Aarefa Johari Wins Chameli Devi Jain Award

- Mumbai-based Scroll.in reporter Aarefa Johari has won the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Mediaperson 2021.
- The award, administered by the Media Foundation.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : MOU & AGREEMENTS

UAE-based Lulu Group to invest Rs 3,500 cr in Tamil Nadu

- Multinational conglomerate LuLu Group International signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to invest Rs 3,500 crore in Tamil Nadu to build two shopping malls and set up an export-oriented food processing unit.

Assam & Meghalaya sign agreement to resolve five-decade-old border dispute in 6 locations:

- The chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya Himanta Biswa Sarma & Conrad Sangma signed an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to resolve part of their five-decade-old inter-state border dispute in six of the 12 locations along the 884.9 km border.

Tripura Govt signs MoU with NIXI-CSC to set up International Data Centre

- The **Tripura** government has inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre** to establish an **international standard Data Centre**.
- The MoU was signed by the Director of the state IT department, **AK Bhattacharjee** and CEO of the NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre, **Anil Jain**.
- The joint venture company will invest **Rs 150 crore** for setting up the Data Centre while the state government will provide only space.

SSDMA and GSI signed MoU for “Early Warning System” based on Rainfall Threshold

- The **Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)** and **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for developing a **Regional Level Early Warning System** based on Rainfall Threshold; at the chamber of Secretary-cum-Relief Commissioner of Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department.
- The MoU was signed by the Secretary-cum-Relief Commissioner of Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department – **Sarala Rai** on behalf of SSDMA and the Director General of GSI – **Dr. S. Raju**.
- Objective : To communicate important and timely data on landslides with the department, which might save lives & property in the state.

IIT Delhi Inks MoU with POSOCO for Research on India's Power Sector

- IIT Delhi inked MoU with **Power System Operation Corporation Limited (Posoco)-NRLDC**.
- The agreement was made to encourage research on **issues relating to India's power sector** and **strengthen collaboration between academia and industry**.
- The MoU was signed on the IIT Delhi campus by **NRLDC (POSOCO) Chief Rajiv Kumar Porwal** and **FITT Chief Operating Officer Col Naveen Gopal (Retd)**.

NITI Aayog, UNICEF sign pact on SDGs focusing on children

- Government think tank **NITI Aayog** and **UNICEF India** signed a statement of intent (**SoI**) on **sustainable development goals (SDGs)** with a focus on children.
- The Sol seeks to formalise a framework of cooperation to launch the first report on the '**State of India's Children: Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development**'.
- The Sol has been signed by **Sanyukta Samaddar**, NITI Aayog's nodal officer, and **Hyun Hee Ban**, UNICEF India chief of social policy, in the presence of **Rajiv Kumar**, vice chairman, NITI Aayog.

OneWeb inks pact with ISRO for satellite launches

- Bharti group-backed **OneWeb** and **New Space India Limited**, the commercial arm of the **Indian Space Research Organisation**, have entered into an agreement that will help ensure OneWeb completes its satellite launch programme.
- The launches will add to **low Earth orbit (LEO)** satellite communications firm OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation of **428 satellites ie.66 percent** of the planned total fleet to build a global network that will deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity
- The **first launch** with New Space India is expected in 2022 from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, AP.**

IAF, Indian Navy inks pact with DRDO to acquire CHAFF to shield warships fighter aircrafts

- The **Indian Air Force** and the **Indian Navy** have tied up with the **Defence Research Development Organisation** to get the **CHAFF technology**, which protects the warship from an anti-ship missile during hostilities.
- With this, **India** is the **second country** after the **United States** to develop this ability.
- CHAFF is a **critical defence technology** used to protect fighter aircrafts or naval ships from enemy **radar-guided missile** during war.

Indian Navy's NIETT signs MoU with IIM Kozhikode to exchange best practices

- The **Indian Navy's Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology (NIETT)** based at **Naval Base Kochi** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K).**
- The MoU was signed by **Commodore Ben H Berson, Director NIETT** and **Prof Debashis Chatterjee, Director IIM(K).**
- The MoU is intended to build collaboration and exchange of best practices in the **field of Instructional Leadership, Educational Psychology and Management.**

Kerala & Netherlands sign MoU for Cosmos Malabaricus project

- **Kerala** and the **Netherlands** have signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** for a project named '**Cosmos Malabaricus**'.
- The Project will help illustrate the **history of Kerala** in the **18th century.**
- The **Cosmos Malabaricus** project is being implemented by the **Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR)** under the **Department of Higher Education, the National Archives of the Netherlands and the University of Leiden.**
- The MoU has been signed in the presence of **Pinarayi Vijayan, chief minister, Kerala** and **Marten van den Berg, Netherlands Ambassador to India.**

- The project will be completed in six years.

Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Public Broadcaster of Argentina

- **Prasar Bharati** has signed an **MoU** with the **Public Broadcaster of Argentina Radio Television Argentina (RTA)** for collaboration in the **field of broadcasting**.

Signatories :

- The Chief Executive Officer of **Prasar Bharati, Shashi Shekhar Vempati** and the president of RTA, **Rosario Lufano**.

CSIR inks MoU with iCreate to harness India's tech strength

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, the premier research and development body of the Government of India and **iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology)**, India's largest institution for transforming start-ups based on tech innovation into businesses, have signed an agreement to **harness the country's technological strength**.
- Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** presided over the MoU.

Civil Aviation Ministry & HP Govt Signed MoU for Development of Nagchala Airport

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** and **Govt. of Himachal Pradesh** signed an **MoU (Memorandum of Understanding)** for the development of a **Green Field Airport in Nagchala, Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh**.
- The signing ceremony was graced by Minister of Civil Aviation, **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, and **Shri Jai Ram Thakur**
- The new greenfield airport at Nagchala, Mandi is being developed under the **Greenfield Airport Policy of MoCA** and a Joint Venture Company between the State Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Airport Authority of India has been formed.
- The project is estimated to cost around **Rs 900 crore** excluding the cost of land.
- The projected land requirement for the airport is **515 acres approx**.

NHLML & RTDC signs MoU for Development Of Ropeways In Himachal

- The **National Highways Logistic Management Limited (NHLML)** and the **Ropeways and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation of Himachal Pradesh (RTDC)** have signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** on **seven ropeway projects** in the state under the **Parvatmala Yojna**.
- The ropeway projects of total length **57.1 kilometres** will be constructed in the state of Himachal Pradesh at a **total cost of Rs 3,232 crore**.

Ta ziz and India's Reliance sign shareholder agreement for \$2bn Ruwais project

- **Reliance Industries** has signed a shareholder agreement with **Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA'ZIZ)** for an investment of **\$2 billion** for the **TA'ZIZ EDC & PVC project**.
- The oil-to chemicals conglomerate is a strategic partner with **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)** and **ADQ**, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company, in **TA'ZIZ EDC & PVC**, a chemicals development at the **TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemicals Zone** in **Ruwais**.

L&T collaborates with IIT Bombay to develop Green Hydrogen Technology

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay**, to jointly pursue research and development work in the **green hydrogen value chain**.
- Hydrogen when produced through an **electrolysis** process using renewable energy is known as green hydrogen which has no carbon footprint.

Google signs MoU with Telangana govt to provide digital training solutions

- **Tech giant Google** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Telangana** government to bring benefits of digital economy to the youth and women entrepreneurs in the state, and kicked off the ground-up development of its three million square foot building in **Telangana**.
- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in the presence of IT and Industries Minister **KT Rama Rao**, Country Head and Vice-President of Google India **Sanjay Gupta**, Principal Secretary for ITE&C **Jayesh Ranjan** and others.

NTPC Inks MoU with Energy Vault for Gravity-based Energy Storage Technology

- The largest power generating utility in India, **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Energy Vault** to formalise a long-term strategic partnership for deploying the NYSE-listed firm's **gravity-based energy storage technology** and software solutions to support the state-run power genco's clean energy transition.

IFSCA Signs MoU with National Insurance Academy (NIA)

- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has signed an **MoU** with the **National Insurance Academy** to provide a skilled talent pool in the insurance sector.
- The MoU endeavours to build **required skilled manpower** for the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.
- To address needs of IFSC Insurance entities, IFSCA had already executed an MoU with **Insurance Institute of India (III)**.

Odisha signs MoU with BPCL for developing renewable energy plant & green hydrogen plant

- The Odisha Government and **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to take vital steps towards the **proliferation of green energy** in the state.
- It is for a **five-year period** to collaborate in the fields of the feasibility of setting up **renewable energy plant and green hydrogen plant (both for domestic and export customers)**, round the clock (RTC) power.
- **Bhupendra Singh Poonia**, Managing Director Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL), and **Amit Garg**, Executive Director Renewable Energy, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), signed a MoU.

HAL signs contract with Nigerian Army for Phase II Training on Chetak Helicopter

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** signed a contract with the **Nigerian Army** for imparting **Phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter** for **six officers of Nigerian Army Aviation**.
- The contract was signed by **BK Tripathy**, General Manager, and Commodore **Anthony Victor Kujoh**, Defense Adviser at the High Commission of Nigeria, in India.

Telangana signs pact with Thailand for trade, investment promotion

- **Telangana's department of Industries and Commerce** and **Thailand's Ministry of Commerce** have agreed to collaborate for promoting bilateral trade and investment through greater cooperation in the areas of **SMEs (small and medium enterprises)** and startups.
- **Telangana Principal Secretary of Industries & Information Technology Jayesh Ranjan** & **Thailand Ministry of Commerce Permanent Secretary Boonyarit Kalayanamit** are the signatories of the agreement.

US-SIA, IESA inks MoU to boost semiconductor co-operation

- The top trade association representing the **US Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)**, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA)** to foster collaboration and identify potential opportunities between the two countries in the semiconductor sector.

IAF signs MOU with IIT Madras to accelerate indigenisation efforts for ATMA Nirbhar Bharat

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** for **technology development and finding indigenous solutions** towards the sustenance of various weapon systems.

- The MoU was signed by Air Commodore **S Bahuja**, Command Engineering Officer (Systems), Headquarters Maintenance Command, IAF and Professor **H S N Murthy**, Head of Department Aerospace Engineering IIT Madras, at Air Force Station, Tughlakabad, Delhi.

Six MoUs signed on second day of waterways conclave in Assam

- Six Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements were signed at the **Waterways Conclave-2022**, which concluded, in **Dibrugarh** in presence of Union minister of ports, shipping and waterways **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Assam chief minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma**.
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** is organizing Waterways Conclave 2022 on **11th-12th April** in **Dibrugarh, Assam**.
- **Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH**, Government of India will be inaugurating the Conclave.

NHPC signs MoU with Himachal Pradesh to develop green hydrogen project

- State-owned **NHPC** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with the district administration of **Chamba, Himachal Pradesh** for development of **green hydrogen technologies** to produce hydrogen.
- Group General Manager of the NHPC **AK Pathak** and **Chamba Deputy Commissioner DC Rana** signed the MoU.
- This project will be executed by **NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NHPC.

India, Maldives ink seven MoUs to implement community development projects

- **India and Maldives** signed **7 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** for projects to be built under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the **High Impact Community Development Project** through local bodies (HICDP).
- The MoUs were signed by the Foreign Minister **Abdulla Shahid** and Indian High Commissioner, **Munu Mahawar**, and the respective implementing agencies.
- The projects launched under the MoUs signed are worth a total grant of **26.8 million Rufiya (equivalent to approximately USD 1.7 million)**.

BEL & MoD signs contracts worth Rs. 3,102 Cr for supply of Advanced Electronic Warfare

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, Government of India, signed **two contracts** worth a total of **Rs. 3,102 Crores** with the **Bengaluru and Hyderabad Units of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, at New Delhi.

India & Australia to collaborate in lithium and cobalt identification projects

- India's Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to invest \$6 million with Australia's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) on lithium and cobalt identification projects in Australia in the next six months.

India to aid construction of wastewater treatment plant in Nepal

- The Indian embassy in Kathmandu has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal and Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality, Solukhumbu for the construction of Khumjung Khunde wastewater management project.

Tata Steel Foundation signs MOU with Jharkhand govt to set up ITI at Chandil

- Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Government of Jharkhand to set-up Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Chandil in the Seraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand.

IFSCA signs MoU with GVFL Limited for Strengthening the FinTech Ecosystem in GIFT IFSC

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and GVFL Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at IFSCA's office at Gift City for cooperation and collaboration to support and facilitate the FinTech ecosystem in GIFT IFSC.

OIL signs incubation agreement with Hydrogen Fuel based Start-up for promoting Hydrogen mobility solutions in Northeastern India

- The Oil India Limited (OIL) inked an Incubation Agreement with the Start-up firm Ohm Clean Tech Private Limited for Hydrogen Mobility Solutions in northeast India.
- It is supported by the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati)

UIDAI, MeitY & ISRO Signs MoU to develop Bhuvan-Aadhar portal

- The Unique Identification Authority Of India (UIDAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), New Delhi, and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, Hyderabad, for technical collaboration.

SJVN signs MoU with BHEL, REMC to develop renewable projects for Indian Railways

- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two other state owned companies engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Railway Energy Management Company (REMC) Limited for the development of renewable energy projects.

Bharat Dynamics signs MoU with Tawazun Economic Council, UAE

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Tawazun Economic Council (TEC), United Arab Emirates, have exchanged Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore new business opportunities in various areas of mutual interest in the field of defence.

Leh to sign tripartite agreement to develop Hanley as Dark Sky Sanctuary

- Leh Administration has set to sign a tripartite agreement to develop Hanley as Dark Sky Sanctuary and Leh Hill Council, Wildlife and Tourism departments will jointly develop the area for Astro Tourism.

India & Australia signs economic cooperation and trade pact to boost the economy

- The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) was inked by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan in a virtual ceremony

Assam Cabinet approves MoU with French agency for biodiversity conservation

- The Assam Cabinet approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the environment and forest department of the State and Agence Francaise de Development, a French funding agency, to foster bilateral dialogue in the field of environment.

India-Nepal sign four agreements & launch multiple projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba met in New Delhi with the two countries launching multiple initiatives as well as signing four crucial agreements in multiple domains.

Manipur govt signs MoU with Samsung and Abhitech to set up sports digital Experience Centre

- As a part of Manipur Olympian Park and at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, the Manipur state government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with tech-giant Samsung Data System India and Abhitech IT Solutions for setting up a world class 'Sports Digital Experience Centre'

ICAI signs MoU with J&K govt to promote commerce stream of education

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed an MoU with the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK), for promoting Commerce Education among students of the Union Territory of J&K.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING & INDEX

World Bank report: Extreme Poverty in India Decline by 12.3% between 2011-2019

- According to the World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, the extreme poverty rate in India has declined from 22.5 percent in 2011 to 10.2 percent in 2019 & ie 12.3 percentage points lower in 2019 as compared to 2011.
- The World Bank working paper, titled Poverty in India Has Declined over the Last Decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought, has been authored by economists Sutirtha Sinha Roy and Roy van der Weide.

Gautam Adani becomes the richest man in India : Bloomberg Billionaire Index

- According to **Bloomberg Billionaire Index**, Adani's net worth as of April 2, 2022, joined the **\$100 billion** club of richest entrepreneurs in the world **surpassing Mukesh Ambani**.
- With this latest development, Adani is the tenth richest person in the world, while Reliance Industries chairman Ambani slipped to the **11th position with \$99 billion in wealth**.

India's Gautam Adani Becomes World's 5th Richest Person - Forbes real time Billionaires list

- According to the **Forbes real time Billionaires list**, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has become the **world's fifth-richest person** overtaking legendary investor **Warren Buffett**.
- The 59-year-old Adani has a net worth of **\$123.7 billion**, market close, edging out the **\$121.7 billion** fortune of **Buffett**.

Forbes 2022 rich list : Elon Musk tops & Mukesh Ambani ranks 10th

- As per the **Forbes' 36th annual ranking of the world's richest people list**, **Elon Musk**, the Tesla and SpaceX founder **topped Forbes' list** for the first time ever with a **net worth of \$219 billion**.

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022: 5 IIT Delhi Programmes Feature In Top 100

- The 'QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022' was released by global higher education think-tank **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**.
- As per the global ranking, for the 10th consecutive year, **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** has been awarded as the **best university with a score of 96.5**.

QS World University Rankings 2022 : IIT-Kharagpur among the top 100 universities in the world

- As per the **12th QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022**, **IIT-Kharagpur** has been named as one of the **top universities of the world** for the study of several subjects in the **domain of engineering**.

NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index Round 1 : Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab Top Among Larger States

- Gujarat has topped the Niti Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) -Round 1 among larger states.
- The event was chaired by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog.

UP Overtakes West Bengal as Leading Producer of Vegetables, AP remains Dominance in Fruits

- Uttar Pradesh has reclaimed its position as the top producing State in vegetables relegating West Bengal to the second position after two years, but this time the difference between the two is more than a million tonnes.

Nykaa's Falguni Nayar among top 10 - Hurun Richest self-made women billionaires in the world 2022

- Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar is ranked into the top 10 list of self-made women billionaires in the world with a massive \$7.6 billion wealth according to a compilation Hurun Richest self-made women billionaire in the world 2022 released by the Hurun Research Institute.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

HAL Hands Over Gaganyaan Hardware to ISRO

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over the first set of Gaganyaan hardware to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) during the inauguration of HAL's PS2/GS2 stage integration facility in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Russia test fires the world's most powerful' nuclear-capable missile

- Russia successfully test-fired the Sarmat missile, a new nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic weapon for the first time from Plesetsk in northwest Russia.
- The missile hit targets in the Kamchatka peninsula, nearly 6,000 km (3,700 miles) away.
- Sarmat has been dubbed Satan 2 by Western analysts.
- It weighs more than 200 tonnes and can transport more than ten warheads.
- Sarmat is a three-stage, liquid-fueled missile with a range of 18,000 km.
- The missile is 35.3 meters long and 3 meters in diameter.

Astronomers discovered a near-identical twin of Jupiter

- A team of scientists has discovered a near-identical twin of Jupiter circling a star 17,000 light-years away from the Earth using data obtained in 2016 by NASA's Kepler space telescope.

Amazon partners with 3 firms to launch its satellite internet constellation

- Amazon has signed **agreements** with **three companies** – Arianespace, Blue Origin, and United Launch Alliance (ULA), to **deploy** the majority of its **Project Kuiper satellites**.

MeitY launches 3 Indigenous Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Solutions for Indian Traffic Management

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched **3 applications** under the **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)** as part of the **InTranSE- II program** to improve India's traffic scenario.

The 3 applications are :

1. Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System (ODAWS)
2. Bus Signal Priority System
3. Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC)

- The product was developed as a joint initiative by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)** and **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)**.

Israel Successfully Test fires New Laser Missile Defense System - 'Iron Beam'

- **Israel** has successfully tested a new laser missile-defence system '**Iron Beam**' which can intercept many kinds of aerial objects starting from missiles, rockets, anti-tank missiles and even drones.
- Iron Beam is the world's **first energy-based weapons system** which is developed by the **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems** is using directed-energy weapon systems and can go a long way in providing aerial defence.

Neptune: Ukraine's homemade cruise missile

- **Neptune** is a **Ukrainian anti-ship cruise missile** capable of **destroying targets** within a range of **300 km.** & was developed by the **Luch design bureau**.
- Its design is based on the **Soviet Kh-35** anti-ship missile, with substantially improved range and electronics.
- The **16-ft long engine-powered missiles** can travel at speeds of up to **560mph (900 km/h)** and at heights of between **nine and 30ft** above the surface

China successfully launches Zhongxing-6D satellite

- China sent a new **satellite Zhongxing-6D** into space from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Center** in **southwest China's Sichuan Province**.
- The satellite was launched by a **Long March-3B carrier rocket** and entered the planned orbit successfully.

- The satellite was developed by the **China Academy of Space Technology**.
- It, built by the **Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology**, will be used to observe air pollution, greenhouse gases and other environmental elements.
- The launch marked the **415th mission** for the Long March series carrier rockets.

SpaceX launches NROL-85 spy satellite

- A **Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) Falcon 9 rocket** has successfully launched a surveillance satellite for the **US National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)** from the **Space Launch Complex-4 East at Vandenberg Space Force Base** in California, US.
- The payload, designated **NROL-85**, was the agency's **second mission** of the year and the **second orbital launch of 2022** from the Western Range.
- This was the **114th** booster successfully recovered by SpaceX & it was the **148th launch** of the Falcon 9 and the rocket's **14th** mission of 2022.

China successfully launches new satellite Gaofen-3 03 for Earth observation

- On April 07, 2022, **China** launched a new **Earth observation satellite Gaofen-3 03** from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in northwest China by a **Long March-4C rocket**.
- The launch marks the **414th** mission for the Long March series carrier rockets.

IIT Madras launches India's 1st indigenously developed prosthetic knee - Kadam

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** researchers have launched **India's first indigenously developed Polycentric Prosthetic Knee** called 'Kadam'.
- The product was developed by a team at **TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2)** at IIT-M, in association with the **Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT)** and **Mobility India**.

Space-X launches 1st all private mission to ISS

- **SpaceX** has successfully launched the **first all-private crew of space tourists** to the **International Space Station**, as part of **Axiom Space's Ax-1 mission**.
- The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket blasts off from the **Kennedy Space Centre** in **Cape Canaveral, Florida**, with the first all-commercial space team, bound for the ISS.

Pakistan successfully conducts test flight of ballistic missile Shaheen-III

- **Pakistan's Army** conducted a successful flight test of the **surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile Shaheen-III**.

Pixxel launches India's first private commercial imaging satellite Shakuntala to space by SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket

- Pixxel, a space-technology startup, has successfully launched its first fully-fledged commercial satellite Shakuntala (Technology Demonstrator-2) with the SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket which was launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, US.

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launches new rare Chemical Reference Materials to strengthen anti-doping Testing

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur launched six new and rare Reference Materials (RMs), the highest form of chemical required for anti-doping analysis in all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited laboratories throughout the world.

China's new Long March-6 rocket makes maiden flight

- China's modified version of the Long March-6 carrier rocket lifted off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi Province & sent two satellites into preset orbits.
- The rocket is developed by the Shanghai Academy of Space Technology (SAST), a subordinate of the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

20th India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA -2022 begins in Arabian Sea

- The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies – 'VARUNA' is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 03, 2022.
- The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies were initiated in 1993.

IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX 22) ends in Goa and Arabian Sea

- The maiden edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was conducted at Goa and in Arabian Sea from 26 – 30 March 2022.
- To enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.

HAL, Israel Aerospace tie up to turn civil aircraft into mid-air refuellers:

- Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to convert civil passenger aircraft to "multi mission tanker transport" (MMTT) aircraft in India.

9th Edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise culminated at Bakloh

- The 9th Edition of the India – Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise which commenced on 25 Mar 2022 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (HP) culminated on 06 April 2022 at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.
- The exercise further strengthened the mutual confidence & interoperability between India and Kyrgyzstan.

Trishakti Corps conducts Ex Kripan Shakti in WB

- The Trishakti Corps conducted Ex Kripan Shakti, an Integrated Fire Power exercise at Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR) near Siliguri (WB).
- To coordinate and synergize the capabilities of the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces to fight an integrated battle.
- The exercise was reviewed by Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Aich, AVSM, General Officer Commanding Trishakti Corps.

6th Scorpene submarine of Project-75 INS Vagsheer launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has launched INS 'Vagsheer' - the sixth and the last Scorpene Submarine of Project-75 launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion.
- These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.
- Project-75 includes construction of six submarines of Scorpene design which are to be built for the Indian Navy.
- The first Submarine Vagsheer, ex-Russia, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 26 December 1974 and was decommissioned on 30 April 1997.

New vessel 'Urja Pravaha' inducted into Indian Coast Guard

- The Indian Coast Guard Ship (Auxiliary Barge) named Urja Pravaha has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Gujarat's Bharuch.
- Urja Pravaha arrived in Kochi and will be under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala and Mahe), in addition to auxiliary barge Urja Shrota, which was based here since 2017.

- Urja Prabha is **36.96 meter** long with a **draft of 1.85 meters** & it is designed to **cargo ship fuel, aviation fuel** and **fresh water** with a capacity of **50 tons, 10 tons and 40 tons** respectively.

Indian Navy successfully test fires BrahMos missile from INS Delhi

- **Indian Navy** successfully test fired a **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from the guided missile destroyer **INS Delhi**.
- The BrahMos firing by INS Delhi from an upgraded modular launcher once again demonstrated long-range strike capability of BrahMos along with validation of integrated Network Centric Operations from frontline platforms.

Indian Army inducts domestically developed specialist vehicles

- **Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General MM Naravane** has inducted the **first set of domestically developed specialist vehicles** into service, at a ceremony organised in the city of **Pune**.
- The vehicles that were inducted include the **Tata Advanced System Limited (TASL)** developed **Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle Medium (QRFV)**, the **Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV)**, and the **Ultra-Long-Range Observation System**.
- TASL is the **first private sector company** to manufacture and provide the **armed forces** with wheeled armoured vehicles that are combat-ready.
- The IPMV was co-developed with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

IAF Successfully Test-fires BrahMos Missile from Su30-MkI Fighter Jet

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully test-fired a **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a **Sukhoi fighter jet Su30 MkI**, on the **Eastern seaboard**.
- The test was carried out by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in close coordination with the **Indian Air Force and the Indian Army**.
- BrahMos Aerospace, an **India-Russian joint venture**, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

Defence Secretary inaugurates two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise NATPOLREX-VIII

- Union Defence Secretary **Ajay Kumar** inaugurated the **8th edition of two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise NATPOLREX-VIII** being conducted by the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** off **Mormugao harbour in Goa**.
- To validate the procedures and guidelines as contained in the **National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP)** at the national and regional levels under the aegis of **SACEP MoU** to which India is a member state.

DRDO successfully flight-tests Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology off Odisha coast

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster at the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

India successfully test-fires Pinaka missile systems Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition Rocket Systems

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army successfully test-fired the Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems.

Govt reserves 25% of defence procurement budget for domestic private industry

- To promote private industry, MSMEs and start-ups in defence production ecosystem, 25% of the Domestic Capital Procurement/Acquisition Budget, amounting to ₹21,149.47 Cr, will be earmarked for domestic private industry in FY2022-23.

DRDO & Indian Army Successfully flight-test of anti-tank guided missile 'Helina' in Pokhran

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) jointly conducted the successful flight-test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' at high-altitude ranges.

Indian Navy's 2nd P-81 Air Squadron INAS 316 Commissions at INS Hansa, Goa

- Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316, the Navy's second P-81 aircraft squadron, will be commissioned at Indian Navy Ship (INS) Hansa Naval air base in Goa in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar.

IAF to celebrate 60 yrs of Chetak helicopter

- On April 02, 2022, Commemorating 60 Glorious years of service by Chetak Helicopter in IAF, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a Conclave hosted by Indian Air Force at Air Force Station, Hakimpet.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : APPS & SERVICES

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches 2 new portals for agri sector

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched two portals, one for the Computerized Registration of pesticide (CROP) and the other for Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS).
- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQS), Faridabad has been catering

to Indian exporters and importers of agriculture commodities and Indian Pesticide Industry, through its two portals namely, **Computerized Registration of pesticide (CROP)** and **Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS)**.

- The portal would help in taking forward **digital Agriculture** and **Ease of doing Business**.

Jammu and Kashmir launches jan nigrani app

- The rural development and panchayati raj department of Jammu and Kashmir administration launched a **mobile application jan nigrani** to help people lodge complaints related to various schemes online
- The app has been developed as an e-governance initiative to provide a **24x7 platform** to the people for redressal of their grievances.

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana Launches 'FASTER' - Software for electronic delivery of orders

- Chief Justice of India **NV Ramana** launched '**Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records**' (**FASTER**), a digital platform to communicate **interim orders, stay orders, bail orders** etc of the apex court to the concerned authorities through a secured electronic communication channel.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launches Broadcast Seva Portal:

- Information and Broadcasting Minister **Anurag Thakur** has launched the **Broadcast Seva Portal** in **New Delhi**.

Union Bank Launches UnionNXT Super App & digital transformation project SMBHAV

- On April 06, 2022, **Union Bank of India** launched its super-app named **UnionNXT – Do it Yourself** and also unveiled '**Union SAMBHAV – World of Opportunities**,' a future digital ready transformation project.

Uttarakhand CM Launches Anti-Corruption Mobile App

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched an anti-corruption mobile app, '**Corruption-Free Uttarakhand App-1064**'.
- The app was developed by the vigilance department of Uttarakhand.

TN CM Stalin launches 'Kaaval Uthavi' app

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin** launched '**Kaaval Uthavi**' app containing 60 features that will help seek police assistance during any emergency.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

SIDBI acquires stake in ONDC to facilitate market access to MSMEs:

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has acquired 7.84 percent stake in the open public digital infrastructure framework entity, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), through an investment of Rs 10 crore.

HP acquires Poly with the goal of becoming a full-service hybrid work ecosystem provider:

- HP has completed its acquisition of Poly for \$1.7 billion in an all-cash deal worth \$3.3 billion when debt is factored in.
- Poly is a manufacturer of office communication devices such as headsets, AV conference room equipment such as desk phones, and software.

Axis Bank buys Citibank India's consumer businesses for \$1.6 billion:

- Citibank has announced that it has reached an agreement with Axis Bank for the sale of Citi's consumer businesses in India.
- Axis was selected by Citi following an extensive and competitive auction process.

IDRCL: Stakes of Canara Bank, SBI, PNB and Union Bank reduced to 5% each:

- Four public sector lenders -- State Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank and Union Bank of India -- their stakes in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) have come down to 5 per cent each.

Elon Musk to acquire Twitter for \$44 Billion in 2022:

- Elon Musk clinched a deal to buy Twitter Inc. for \$44 billion cash in a transaction that will shift control of the social media platform populated by millions of users and global leaders to the world's richest person.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

India beat Malaysia to register third consecutive victory in FIH Women's Junior World Cup in South Africa:

- In the FIH Women's Junior World Cup, India defeated Malaysia four-nil, to register their third consecutive victory in their pool D campaign at Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- That's the end of the group stage for India, who win three from three and confirm a spot against South Korea in the quarterfinal.

India's Harpreet Singh and Sachin Sahrawat bag bronze medals in Mongolia:

- In Wrestling, Harpreet Singh and Sachin Sahrawat bagged a bronze each as Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers concluded their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2022 with five medals, in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia.

- Harpreet defeated Korea's Sejin Yang 4-2 in the quarter-final before going down to Iran's Rasoul Sadegh Garmsiri in the semis by fall in the **82 kg weight category**.
- In the **bronze medal match**, Harpreet was declared the winner after Jafar Khan from Qatar suffered an injury.

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

- West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has announced his **retirement from international cricket**.
- Pollard, who was the captain of West Indies' limited-overs teams, played a total of 123 ODIs and 101 T20Is.

Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah among Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year:

- India captain Rohit Sharma and pacer Jasprit Bumrah have been named among the "Five Cricketers of the Year" in the 2022 edition of the Wisden Almanack.
- Besides the duo, the list also features New Zealand batter Devon Conway, England pacer Ollie Robinson and Proteas women star Dane van Niekerk.

Weightlifter Govind Sunil Mahajan wins Gold, Uday Anil Mahajan bags Silver at Khelo India University Games :

- In Khelo India University Games, **Weightlifter Govind Sunil Mahajan won gold** and Uday Anil Mahajan won **silver** to help Kaviyatri Bahinabai Chaudhuri North Maharashtra University top the medal table at the end of action in Bengaluru.
- Maharshi Dayanand University's Komal Kohar won **gold** in the women's **weightlifting 45kg class**.

Deepak Punia wins silver medal in Asian Wrestling Championships:

- India's **Deepak Punia won the 86kg men's freestyle silver medal** while Viky clinched bronze in 92kg on the final day of the Asian Wrestling Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- This was **Deepak's second consecutive silver and fourth continental medal**, including two bronze.
- India finished its campaign at this edition of the continental event with a total of **one gold, five silver, and eleven bronze medals**.

Andrey Rublev defeated Novak Djokovic: Serbia Open title:

- Andrey Rublev defeated Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-0 to win the **Serbia Open** for his third title of the season.
- The **second-seeded Russian player** dug deep to stop Djokovic from mounting another comeback as he prevented the top-ranked Serb from claiming his first title of 2022.

LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS 2022:

- **Max Verstappen** now has something in common with the likes of **Lionel Messi, Roger Federer and Michael Schumacher**: a **Laureus World Sportsman of the Year** award.

Ann Mariya breaks National Record in clean, Jerk category in 87 kg category weightlifting:

- **Ann Mariya** from Mangalore University broke the National Record in the clean and Jerk category in the **87 kg class weightlifting championship** during the **Khelo India University Games** in Bengaluru.
- She lifted **129 kg** to break the previous record of **128 kgs** held by **Manpreet Kaur**.
- **Ann Mariya** won the **gold medal** with a total lift of **230 kgs**.
- The **Jain University of Bengaluru** tops the medal tally with eight Gold, four Silver and one bronze medal.

Asian Wrestling Championships 2022: India finished with 17 medals:

- India finished with a total tally of **17 medals**, one gold, five silvers and 11 bronze, **35th edition of Asian Wrestling Championships 2022** in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Tokyo Olympian **Deepak Punia** won the men's freestyle **86kg silver** while **Viky** bagged a bronze in the **92kg** category at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2022 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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

- **Thirteen-year-old Riya Jadon** won the **DGC Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship**, following a close fight with older sister **Lavanya Jadon**.
- **Riya**, who carded **78, 80 and 74**, also won the junior girls trophy.

Netherlands won FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022:

- The **Netherlands** lifted their **fourth FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup** title after **beating Germany 3-1** in the final at **Potchefstroom, South Africa**.
- The **2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup** will be the tenth edition and will be held in **Santiago, Chile**.

Victoria to host 2026 Commonwealth Games across cities:

- **Victoria** will host the **2026 Commonwealth Games** with the **Australian state's regional centres** organising the majority of events in a break from the traditional single host city model.
- The opening ceremony will take place at the **iconic 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground**, the **Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)** announced.
- The Games in 2026 will be the **23rd edition** of the major multi-sport event, which began in 1930 in **Hamilton, Canada**.

Orleans Masters 2022: Indian Shuttler Mithun Manjunath Won Silver:

- In badminton, Indian shuttler **Mithun Manjunath** had to settle for a **silver medal** after losing to home favourite **Toma Junior Popov** in the men's singles final of the **Orleans Masters 2022** badminton tournament in **Orleans, France**.

- The women's doubles pair of **Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam** were the only other Indian players to make it to the semi-finals at **the Orleans Masters 2022**.

India will host Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023:

- India will host the **Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023**.
- Organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India, **the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023** will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year.

R Praggnanandhaa wins prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament:

- Young Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** has won the prestigious **Reykjavik Open chess tournament** here with 7.5 points from nine rounds.
- The **16-year-old Praggnanandhaa** defeated compatriot **GM D Gukesh** in the final round to emerge the sole winner.
- The **Netherlands GM Max Warmerdam** took **second place** with seven points ahead of **Mads Anderson (Denmark)**, who also scored the same number of points.

Odisha CM unveils logo of 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup:

- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** has unveiled logo of **2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup** at the **Kalinga stadium** in the capital **Bhubaneswar**.
- To be held in the twin cities of **Bhubaneswar and Rourkela**, the prestigious quadrennial tournament is scheduled from **January 13 to 29**.

Tamil Nadu beats Punjab in the National basketball championship final:

- **Tamil Nadu men** registered a comprehensive **87-69** win over **Punjab** to regain the **71st Senior National Basketball Championship** crown at the **Nehru Indoor Stadium**.
- This was **Tamil Nadu's 10th National title**.

2022 NZC Awards: Tim Southee wins Sir Richard Hadlee medal:

- **New Zealand pacer Tim Southee** was awarded the prestigious **Sir Richard Hadlee medal** at the **2022 NZC Awards**.
- **New Zealand speedster Trent Boult and White Ferns skipper Sophie Devine** won the '**T20 International Player of the Year**' in the recently announced **New Zealand Cricket Awards 2022**.
- This is **Southee's first Player of the Year award** in a career spanning **14 long years**.

Danish Open swimming: Olympian Sajan Prakash wins gold:

- **Ace Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash** won the **gold medal** in the **men's 200m butterfly event** at the **Danish Open 2022** in **Copenhagen**.

- Meanwhile, In the men's 1500m freestyle event, 16-year-old Vedaant Madhavan, son of Indian actor R Madhavan, achieved his personal best time of 15.57.86 to clinch the silver medal in the 10-swimmer final.

New Zealand pacer Hamish Bennett announces retirement from all forms of cricket:

- New Zealand pacer Hamish Bennett has announced that the 2021/22 season will be the last of his 17-year-old career.
- The 35-year-old has represented the New Zealand U-19 side, the senior men's team, and domestic teams Wellington and Canterbury.

Haryana wins 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship:

- Haryana has become the winner of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship in the final, Haryana defeated Tamil Nadu 3-1 in the shootout after the final ended 1-1 in the regulation time.
- The tournament was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from April 6 to 17, 2022.
- Haryana has won the trophy for the first time since 2011.

Gukesh wins La Roda International Open chess title:

- The country's youngest Grandmaster D. Gukesh, 15, improved upon his two runner-up finishes in March with a resounding title-triumph in the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament in Castile-La Mancha, in Spain.
- Gukesh defeated Israel's Victor Mikhalevski in just 26 moves to finish the final round.

F1 Australian Grand Prix 2022 won by Charles Leclerc:

- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc won the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, as world champion Max Verstappen was forced to retire his Red Bull after giving valiant chase.
- It was the third round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship.

Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal wins first-ever gold medal at World Doubles Squash championships:

- India won two gold medals at the WSF World Doubles Squash Championships on the back of brilliant performances by Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa at the Scotstoun Leisure Centre in Glasgow.

Thailand Open Boxing Tournament 2022: India Bags 10 medal with 3 gold:

- Tokyo Olympians Amit Panghal and Ashish Kumar settled for silver medals in the men's 52kg and 81kg events, respectively, at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022 in Phuket

Babar Azam, Rachael Haynes Named ICC Players of The Month For March 2022:

- Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was voted as the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for March, while Australian opener Rachael Haynes bagged the honour among women.

1st Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament held in Jamshedpur:

- First Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery to be held in Jamshedpur on April 12 and 13.
- The Sports Authority of India has approved a total amount of Rs 75 Lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases.

Ravichandran Ashwin becomes 1st player to get retired out in IPL History:

- Ravichandran Ashwin became the first cricketer in Indian Premier League (IPL) history to be retired during the match between Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants.
- During the 19th over of the Rajasthan Royals innings, Ashwin walked off the field and it was declared that the all-rounder was 'retired out'.

Virat Kohli tops in Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021:

- Virat Kohli has emerged as the most valued celebrity in India for the fifth year in a row, topping the Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 despite seeing a dip in his brand value to \$185.7 million last year from a high of \$237.7 million in 2020.

Mirabai Chanu bagged 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award 2021:

- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award.
- Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics.

Adidas Unveils Official Al Rihla FIFA World Cup Ball for Qatar 2022:

- Sportswear giant Adidas has unveiled Al Rihla – the official match ball for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.
- It is the 14th successive ball that Adidas has created for the FIFA World Cup, designed to support the game at high speed as it travels faster in flight than any other World Cup ball.

National weightlifting championships: Ann Mariya M T wins gold medal:

- Ann Mariya M.T. from Kerala won the women's 87-kilogram gold medal with a national record aggregate of 231 kg on the concluding day of the National weightlifting championships at the KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar.

Meghalaya all set to host 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022:

- **Meghalaya** is all set to host the **83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022** scheduled to begin from **April 18th till 25th, 2022** at **SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU** in **Shillong**.

Anurag Thakur launches logo, mascot jersey & anthem of Khelo India University Games 2021:

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** and Governor of Karnataka, **TC Gehlot** launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the **Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021)** on **April 01, 2022**, at the **Sree Kanteerava Stadium** in **Bengaluru**.

Australia wins ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022:

- **Australia** defeated **England** by **71 runs** to win the **ICC Women's World Cup** in **Hagley Oval** in **Christchurch, New Zealand**.
- The batter, who opened the innings after **Australia** were invited to bat first, scored **170 off 138 deliveries** to help her side pile a gigantic **356/5** in **50 overs**.

Iga Swiatek wins Miami Open tennis title 2022:

- **Iga Swiatek** of **Poland** won the **2022 Miami Open tennis tournament** by defeating **Naomi Osaka** of **Japan** in the final match, **6-4, 6-0**.
- Switek has won **four WTA 1000 titles**, including **six singles titles**.

Centre sanctions Rs 3.65 crores for international exposure trips of Indian Athletics, Yachting teams:

- The **Centre** has sanctioned **three crore 65,00,000 rupees** for international exposure trips of **Indian Athletics and Yachting teams**.
- These exposure tours have been scheduled this month ahead of the **World Athletics Championship**, the **Commonwealth Games** and the **Asian Games-2022**.

2022 Miami Open Tennis Tournament Overview:

- The **2022 Miami Open** (also known as the **Miami Masters**, and currently branded as the **Miami Open** presented by **Itaú** for sponsorship reasons) **tennis tournament** was the **37th edition** of the **men's and women's event**, held from **March 22 to April 3, 2022** in **Miami Gardens, Florida**.

75th Santosh Trophy in Malappuram from April 16:

- The **75th National Football Championship** for **Santosh Trophy** will kick off on **April 16** with a match between traditional powerhouses **West Bengal** and **Punjab** at the **Kottappadi Stadium** in **Malappuram, Kerala**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS AND AUTHOR

A New book titled “Decoding Indian Babudom” authored by Ashwini Shrivastava:

- Ashwini Shrivastava has authored a new book titled “Decoding Indian Babudom” which was published by Vitasta Publishing Private Limited.

A New Book Titled “Tiger of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero”:

- HarperCollins India has announced the release the new book titled “Tiger of Drass, Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero” by Meena Nayyar and Himmat Singh Shekhawat

Indian Author Prem Rawat Launches His Book ‘Hear Yourself’:

- Indian author Prem Rawat has launched his new book titled ‘Hear Yourself’ for the Indian subcontinent in Mumbai.
- This New York Times bestseller book is already available in 58 countries and five languages.

Naveen Patnaik released 2 books The Magic of Mangalajodi & The Sikh History of East India”:

- Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha, has released two books: "The Magic of Mangalajodi," a coffee table book by Avinash Khemka, and "Sikh History of Eastern India," a compilation of the Sikh history of eastern India by Abinash Mohapatra.
- The coffee table book "The Magic of Mangalajodi" presents a bird's eye perspective of Mangalajodi in Chilika Lake through numerous photographs and explanations.
- Sikh History of Eastern India is a result of the meticulous research work on Sikh history and philosophy by Abinash Mohapatra.

A new book titled ‘Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping’ authored by Roger Faligot:

- A new book ‘Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping’ Written by Roger Faligot translated by writer, editor and translator, Natasha Lehrer.
- Published by HarperCollins India, the book will be released on 29 April.
- The book ‘Chinese Spies’ was originally published in French in 2008 and later translated into English from the updated 4th edition by Natasha Lehrer.

A New Children’s Book titled “The Boy Who Wrote a constitution” authored by Rajesh Talwar:

- In the 131st year of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's birth, Rajesh Talwar published "The Boy Who Wrote a constitution: A Play for Children on Human Rights."
- This book conveys to the children about the challenging boyhood and grown-up years of Ambedkar who had written the Constitution of India and became India's first law minister.

‘Not Just a Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI’, book by Former CAG Vinod Rai:

- **Vinod Rai**, the CAG and the head of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) in 2017, has written a book titled "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Inning with BCCI."

Geetanjali Shree's 'Tomb of Sand' first Hindi fiction on Booker Shortlist:

- Hindi novelist and short story writer Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' is among six books from all over the world shortlisted for the International Booker Prize.
- This makes it the first Hindi language work of fiction to make it to the list.

A New book “Crunch Time: Narendra Modi’s National Security Crises” by Sreeram Chaulia:

- A new book titled “Crunch Time: Narendra Modi’s National Security Crises” has been released.
- It has been authored by **Sreeram Chaulia**, a social scientist and an opinion maker on international issues.

Dharmendra Pradhan releases book titled “Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak”:

- **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister of Education and Skill Development, has released a book named "Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak."
- **Alok Chakrawal**, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, authored the book.

A new book titled “Queen of Fire” authored by Devika Rangachari:

- **Devika Rangachari**, an award-winning children's author and historian, has written a new novel called "Queen of Fire," which tells the narrative of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.
- The story follows Rani Lakshmibai's life as a queen, soldier, and stateswoman.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARIES

Miguel Van Damme dead: Belgian footballer passes away:

- Belgian footballer **Miguel Van Damme** passed away at the age of 28 following a lengthy battle with Leukaemia.

Former Sikkim CM BB Gurung passes away:

- Former chief minister of Sikkim – **BB Gurung** passed away at 92 years old.
- **BB Gurung** was the third chief minister of Sikkim.

Actor-screenwriter Shiv Kumar Subramaniam passes away:

- Actor-screenwriter **Shiv Kumar Subramaniam** has passed away.

- Subramaniam was last seen in the movie **Meenakshi Sundareswarar**. **Hichki**, **Rocky Handsome**, and **Kaminey** were some of the other films he had starred in.

Veteran television producer & actor Manju Singh passes away:

- Veteran television producer and actor Manju Singh passed away due to cardiac arrest.
- Singh was one of the pioneers in the Indian television industry who had produced many remarkable shows like 'Show Time, Ek Kahaani, Adhikar, Swaraj and others.

Noted Odia singer and musician Prafulla Kar passes away:

- Popular Odia singer and music director Prafulla Kar passed away following breathing difficulties
- He received the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2015.
- He started his career as a singer in 1962 with the Odia film Shri Shri Patita Pabana.

Versatile Malayalam Screenwriter and producer John Paul passes away:

- Versatile Malayalam Screenwriter and producer John Paul passed away in Kochi.
- John Paul has penned screenplays for several Malayalam films like **Chamaram**, **Oru Minnaminunginte**, **Nurunguvettam**, **Kattathekilikoodu**, **Yatra**, **Malootty**, besides several other critically acclaimed movies and commercial entertainers.

Former Kenyan president Kibaki dies at 90:

- Former Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki has died at the age of 90.
- Kibaki served two terms as president of the East African country, ruling from 2002 to 2013.

Noted Padma Shri writer Binapani Mohanty passes away:

- Legendary Odia writer Binapani Mohanty died at her residence in Cuttack due to age-related complications.
- She is well-known for **Patadei**, **Kasturi Mriga**, **O Sabuja Aranya**, **Khela Ghara**, **Naiku Rasta**, **Bastraharana**, **Andhakarara**.

Padma Shri Awardee Structural Biologist M. Vijayan passes away:

- M. Vijayan, the DAE Homi Bhabha Professor of structural biology at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), died in Bengaluru.
- Vijayan, was a pioneer in macromolecular crystallography in India.
- A recipient of the Padma Shri and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Prof. Vijayan was the president of the Indian National Science Academy from 2007 to 2010.

Former Indian women's hockey team captain Elvera Britto passes away:

- Former Indian women's hockey team captain Elvera Britto died due to old age-related problems.

- In 1965, Elvera became only the **second woman hockey player** to be conferred with the **Arjuna Award** after **Anne Lumsden (1961)**.

Former CM of Meghalaya J.D. Rymbai passes away:

- Meghalaya's former chief minister J.D. Rymbai died after a brief illness.

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