

Daily Current Affairs 22th April 2022

Important News: India

Centre extends ceasefire pact with 3 Naga groups by a year



Why in News?

- The Central government has extended ceasefire agreement with 3 Naga groups for further period of one year.

Key Points

- The groups include National Socialist Council of Nagaland-NK (NSCN-NK), National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Reformation (NSCN-R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-K-Khango (NSCN-K-Khango).
- All these groups are breakaway factions of NSCN-IM and NSCN-K.
- According to a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs, it was decided to extend the ceasefire agreements for a further period of one year with effect from April 28, 2022 to April 27, 2023 with NSCN-NK and NSCN-R, and from April 18, 2022 to April 17, 2023 with NSCN-K-Khango.

Note:

- The Centre had signed ceasefire agreement with the Niki Sumi faction of the NSCN-K in September 2021.
- The Centre had signed a “Framework Agreement” with the NSCN (IM) in August 2015.

Other related Peace Agreements:

- Bodo Peace Accord, 2020
- Bru Accord, 2020
- Karbi Anglong Agreement, 2021

Source: Indian Express

NITI Aayog releases Draft Battery Swapping Policy

Why in News?

- NITI Aayog has released **Draft Battery Swapping Policy** for the comments of Stakeholder.



Key Points

About Draft Battery Swapping Policy:

- Under this Policy, all metropolitan cities with a population above 40 lakh will be prioritised for development of battery swapping network under the first phase.
- All major cities such as state capitals, UT headquarters and cities with 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.
- Vehicles with swappable batteries will be sold without a battery, providing the benefit of lower purchase costs to potential EV owners.

Note:

- During the COP26 summit in Glasgow, India committed to reduce carbon emission intensity by 45%, and take our non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030 and meet 50% of our energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030, and finally achieve the Net Zero target by 2070.
- The road transport sector is one of the major contributors to CO₂ emissions and accords to one third of the particulate matter emissions.
- Several supporting initiatives have been implemented, such as the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric (Hybrid) Vehicles in India (FAME) I and II, and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for National Programme on Advanced Cell (ACC) Battery Storage (NPACC), to boost indigenous battery manufacturing capacity.

Source: ET

India to get world's longest and highest tunnel in Himachal

Why in News?

- India will soon be home to the world's longest highway tunnel beneath the 16,580 ft high Shinku-La Pass, between Zaskar Valley in Ladakh and Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh.



Key Points

- The tunnel will be ready by 2025, and will provide all-weather connectivity between Ladakh and Himachal.
- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Chief Lt General Rajeev Chaudhury informed that the **Shinku-La tunnel** will be 4.25km in length.

Note:

- **Atal Tunnel**, named after former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a highway tunnel built under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas on the Leh-Manali Highway in Himachal Pradesh, India.
- At a length of 9.02 km, it is the longest highway single-tube tunnel above 10,000 feet in the world.

Source: TOI

India's first portable solar rooftop system unveiled in Gandhinagar



Why in News?

- **India's first portable solar rooftop system** was inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Key Points

- 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).
- The systems have been installed under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's initiative to develop renewable energy cities across India.
- The PV Ports have been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL), a leading maker of solar products under the Make in India project.

Source: Business Standard

Oil India Limited (OIL) commissions India's first pure green hydrogen plant in Assam



Why in News?

- Oil India Limited (OIL) has commissioned “India’s first 99.999% pure” green hydrogen plant in Assam.

Key Points

- Oil India Limited has taken the first significant step towards **Green Hydrogen Economy** in India with the commissioning of 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.
- 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.
- This plant is expected to increase its production of green hydrogen from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in future.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Economy

India Post Payments Bank launches ‘Fincluvation’

Why in News?

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** announced the launch of **Fincluvation**– a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.



Key Points

About Fincluvation:

- Fincluvation will be a permanent platform of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to co-create inclusive financial solutions with participating start-ups.
- Fincluvation invites startups to Participate, Ideate, Develop and Market intuitive and tailored products and services that can be taken to the customers.
- Fincluvation will allow the start-ups to work with IPPB and DoP experts to develop solutions and conduct pilots using the postal network and IPPB's technology stack.

About India Post Payments Bank (IPPB):

- IPPB has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India.
- It was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 1, 2018.

Source: PIB

Important News: Award and Honours

PM Modi confers Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration

Why in News?

- On the occasion of **Civil Services Day**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Key Points

- **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence** in Public Administration have been instituted with a view to recognize the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/implementing units and Central/State organisations for the welfare of common citizens.
- They are also conferred for effective implementation of identified priority programs and innovation.



- Exemplary work done in the following five identified priority programmes will be given awards which is to be presented on **Civil Services Day 2022**: (i) Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's Participation in **Poshan Abhiyan**, (ii) Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through **Khelo India scheme**, (iii) Digital payments and Good Governance in **PM SVANidhi Yojana**, (iv) Holistic Development through **One District One**

Product scheme, (v) Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention.

- A total of 16 awards for 5 identified Priority Programmes and for innovations in the sphere of public administration/delivery of services etc. will be given this year.

Note: The central government observes April 21 as Civil Services Day.

Source: HT

David Attenborough receives the UN's most distinguished environment award



Why in News?

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has awarded **David Attenborough** the **Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award** for his dedication to research, documentation and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.

Key Points

- This Lifetime Achievement Award is given in a historic year for the global environmental community. 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.
- The conference spurred the formation of environment ministries and agencies around the world, kick started a host of new global agreements to collectively protect the environment, and led to the formation of **UNEP**, which is observing its 50th anniversary this year.

Facts about United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

- **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya
- **Founded:** 5 June 1972
- **Executive Director:** Inger Andersen

Source: DTE

Important News: Important Days

April 22, International Mother Earth Day



Why in News?

- International Mother Earth Day (Earth Day) is observed on 22 April every year.

Key Points

- The **theme** for International Mother Earth Day 2022 is "Invest In Our Planet".
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day through a resolution adopted in 2009.
- The UN Conference on the Human Environment 1972 in Stockholm marked the beginning of a global awareness as well as the establishment of World Environment Day on 5 June and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Source: un.org