

Weekly Current Affair

साप्ताहिक करेंट अफेयर्स



(10-16 April 2022)

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International Relations

Global Wind Report 2022

Why in News

- The **Global Wind Report for 2022** has been published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).

Key Points

Highlights of the Report:

- 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.
- Without the necessary amplification, restricting global warming over pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degrees Celsius — a target set by the Paris Agreement — and achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 may become difficult.
- New offshore installations in 2022 are likely to decline to the 2019 / 2020 levels, primarily due to the reduction of installations in China.
- However, market growth is expected to regain momentum from 2023, eventually passing the 30GW-mark in 2026.
- Carbon dioxide emissions can reduce by 0.3-1.61 gigatonnes every year by 2050 if offshore wind energy generation is scaled up.

Scope in India:

- In India, more than 1.4 GW of wind was installed in 2021, exceeding the 1.1 GW of installations during the previous year.
- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of installing 5 GW of offshore capacity by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030. India is yet to develop its offshore wind energy facility.
- India can generate 127 GW of offshore wind energy with its 7,600 km of coastline.

Related Initiatives:

- National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy
- National Offshore Wind Energy Policy

Source: DTE



India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

Why in News

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar participated in the **4th India-USA 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** on April 11, 2022 in Washington DC. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin represented the United States.
- All four high officials were present as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden met virtually on April 11, ahead of the 2+2 dialogue.



Key Points

Dialogue with the US:

- The US is India's oldest and most important 2+2 talks partner.
- The first 2+2 dialogue between the two countries was held during the Trump Administration, when then Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and then Secretary of Defence James Mattis met the late Sushma Swaraj and then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi in September 2018.
- The second and third editions of the 2+2 dialogues were held in Washington DC and New Delhi in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Defence and strategic agreements:

- India and the US have signed a troika of "foundational pacts" for deep military cooperation, beginning with the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016, followed by the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) after the first 2+2 dialogue in 2018, and then the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020.

2+2 talks between India and allies:

- The 2+2 dialogue is a format of meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies on strategic and security issues.
- India has 2+2 dialogues with four key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia. Besides Russia, the other three countries are also India's partners in the Quad.

Source: Indian Express



UNGA votes to suspend Russia from Human Rights Council

Why in News

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has suspended **Russia** from the **Human Rights Council (HRC)** amid its ongoing war with Ukraine.



Key Points

- The resolution titled 'Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council' was adopted with 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions, including India.
- With this, Russia became the second country to have its membership rights stripped at the rights council, which was established in 2006.
- In 2011, Libya was suspended by the assembly.

About United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC):

- The United Nations Human Rights Council is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 15 March 2006

Source: Indian Express

National

GoI-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-27

Why in News

- Recently, NITI Aayog and the United Nations organized a day-long national validation workshop on the upcoming **Government of India-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-27**.
- This was the first such congregation that saw the participation of officials from 30 Union ministries, heads of 26 UN agencies, and representatives from all states and union territories.



Key Points

- The previous GoI-UNSDCF 2018-22 was an agenda of cooperation, results and strategies to achieve national development priorities and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.



- The 2018–22 framework is guided by the joint steering committee, chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman and UN Resident Coordinator India, with members from the Department of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The 2023–27 framework aims to align the four pillars of the 2030 Agenda— People, Prosperity, Planet and Participation—with India’s national priorities and provide direction to the efforts of all the UN entities working across the country.
- The new framework has identified six outcome areas: (i) health and well-being (ii) nutrition and food (iii) quality education (iv) economic growth and decent work (v) environment, climate, wash and resilience (vi) empowering people, communities, and institutions.

Source: PIB

Govt approves continuation of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan till March 2026

Why in News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of revamped Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** for implementation during the period from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2026 (co-terminus with XV Finance Commission period) to develop governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).



Key Points

Financial implications:

- The total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs.5911 crore with the Central Share of Rs.3700 crore and that of State Share of Rs.2211 crore.

Major impact including employment generation potential:

- The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78 lakh Rural Local Bodies including Traditional Bodies across the country to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources.

Background:

- The then Finance Minister, in his budget speech for 2016-17, announced the launch of new restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), for developing governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In compliance of this announcement and the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman-NITI Aayog,



Centrally Sponsored Scheme of RGSA was approved by the Union Cabinet on 21.04.2018 for implementation from Financial Year 2018-19 to 2021-22 (01.04.2018 to 31.03.2022).

Source: PIB

PM Modi inaugurates 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya'

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the '**Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**' (Prime Ministers' Museum) in New Delhi.

Key Points

- The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya is built at Delhi's Teen Murti Estate and covers the lives and contributions of all the 14 former Prime Ministers of the country.
- The facility has as many as 43 galleries, displays on freedom struggle and a framing of the Constitution of India.

Source: TOI



Allow colour blind candidates to study film editing courses, Supreme Court tells FTII

Why in News

- The Supreme Court has directed the **Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** not to exclude candidates suffering from **colour blindness** from its courses on film making and editing and asked it to make changes to its curriculum instead.

Key Points

Colour blindness:

- Colour blindness, also known as colour deficiency, is the inability to see colours in the normal way.
- Colour blind individuals often cannot distinguish between certain colours — usually greens and reds, and sometimes blues as well.
- Two types of cells in the retina detect light — the “rods”, which distinguish between light and dark, and the “cones” that detect colour.
- There are three types of cones that see colour — red, green, and blue — and our brains use the information from these cells to perceive colour.



- Colour blindness can be the result of the absence of one or more of these cone cells, or their failure to work properly.
- Colour blindness may be of different kinds and degrees.

Causes:

- Most colour blind people are born with the condition (congenital colour blindness). Congenital colour vision deficiencies are usually passed on genetically.
- A problem with colour vision that arises later in life could be the result of disease, trauma, or ingested toxins.
- Medical conditions that may increase the risk of getting colour blindness include glaucoma, diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, alcoholism, leukaemia, and sickle-cell anaemia.

Note: In June 2020, India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 to enable citizens with mild to medium colour blindness to obtain a driver's licence.

Source: Indian Express

Government launches country's biggest ever Quiz Contest Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz

Why in News

- MyGov under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is organising the **Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz Series**, which is part of an outreach effort to build awareness in citizens.
- This quiz has been fittingly launched on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on 14th April 2022.



Key Points

- The quiz aims to sensitise the participants about the various schemes and initiatives and how to avail the benefits.
- The first quiz is the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):

- PMGKAY is a pro-poor scheme intended to reduce the challenges encountered by the poor because of disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Under the scheme, all National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries are entitled to 5 kgs of free food grain every month.



- This is over and above the highly subsidised food grains available to NFSA beneficiaries.

Source: newsonair

India holds maiden MEA-led Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group on Neighbourhood outreach

Why in News

- Recently, the first meeting of **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group (IMCG)** on India's neighbourhood outreach was convened by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.



Key Points

- The focus of the meeting was construction of border infrastructure that would facilitate greater trade with neighbours like Nepal; special needs of countries such as Bhutan and Maldives in terms of supply of essential commodities; opening rail connectivity with Bangladesh; Humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and Myanmar; and Fisheries issue with Sri Lanka.

About Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group (IMCG):

- IMCG is supported by inter-ministerial joint task forces (JTFs) convened by joint secretaries in the External Affairs Ministry.
- A whole-of-government approach has been adopted to ensure greater connectivity, stronger inter-linkages and greater people-to-people connect under the **"Neighbourhood First" policy**.
- This includes coordination with various ministries, departments, and agencies of the Central and state governments.

Source: ET

'SVANidhi se Samridhhi' program

Why in News

- Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched **'SVANidhi se Samridhhi' program** in additional 126 cities across 14 States/ UTs.

Key Points

About **'SVANidhi se Samridhhi'** program:



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- 'SVANidhi se Samridhhi', 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.
- Considering the success of Phase I, MoHUA launched the program expansion to additional 126 cities with an aim to cover 28 Lakh Street vendors and their families, with a total target of 20 Lakh scheme sanctions for FY 2022-23.

About PMSVANidhi Scheme:

- MoHUA has been implementing Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), a Central Sector Scheme since 1st June 2020.
- The scheme aims to provide an affordable working capital loan to Street Vendors and has successfully crossed the 30 Lakh mark.
- Under the program, socio-economic profiling of PMSVANidhi beneficiaries and their families is conducted to assess their eligibility for 8 Government of India's welfare schemes and facilitate sanctions of eligible schemes.
- These schemes include Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Registration under Building and other Constructions Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (BOCW), Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, National Food Security Act (NFSA) portability benefit – One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC), Janani Suraksha Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- Quality Council of India (QCI) is the implementing partner for the programme.

Source: PIB

For the first time in 11 years, the number of domestic patent filing surpasses the number of international patent filing in India

Why in News

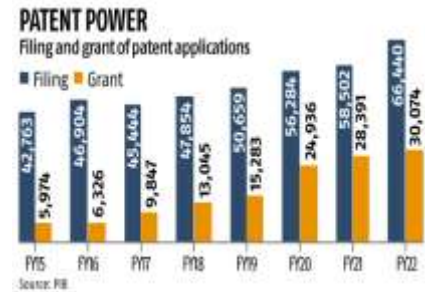
- India achieved yet another milestone in context of IP innovation ecosystem, wherein for the first time in the last 11 years, the number of domestic patent filing has surpassed the number of international patent filing at Indian patent office in the Quarter Jan-Mar 2022 i.e. of the total 19796 patent applications filed, 10706 were filed by Indian applicants against 9090 by non-Indian applicants.



Key Points



- Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government over the years that has bolstered India's IP regime includes fee concessions like 10% rebate on online filing, 80% fee concession for Start-ups, Small Entities and educational institutions, and provisions on expedited examination for Startups and MSMEs along with other categories.



- It will take India a step closer to India's ambitious target of being in the top 25 nations of Global Innovation Index.

The cornerstone laid down by National IPR policy and the efforts made by the Government has transpired into the following achievements for India:

- Filing of patents have increased from 42763 in 2014-15 to 66440 in 2021-22, more that 50% increase in a span of 7 years
- Nearly five times increase in grant of patents in 2021-22 (30,074) as compared to 2014-15 (5978)
- Reduction in Time of patent examination from 72 months in Dec 2016 to 5-23 months at present, for different technological areas
- India's ranking in **Global Innovation Index** has increased to **46th in 2021** (+35 ranks) as compared to from 81st in 2015-16

Source: Business Standard

5G Vertical Engagement and Partnership Program (VEPP)

Why in News

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) for "5G Vertical Engagement and Partnership Program (VEPP)" initiative to build strong collaboration partnerships across 5G Use-case ecosystem stakeholders with velocity and with an exclusive emphasis to address User/Vertical Industry needs.



Key Points

- In order to multiply the 5G opportunities across the usage verticals, under the guidance of Secretary (Telecom), an **Inter-Ministerial Committee** chaired by Member (Technology), Digital Communications Commission is constituted with representatives from Ministry of Electronics and IT,



Department of Science and Technology & relevant Vertical Ministries viz. Agriculture, Health, Urban Affairs, Education, Power, Mines, Jalshakthi, Commerce, Ports, Railways, Heavy Industries, Road Transport, Tourism etc. to facilitate collaborative efforts across stakeholders.

- “5G Vertical Engagement and Partnership Program” is being offered to Industry verticals which have potential as testing cum breeding grounds for innovative 5G use cases, through an Expression of Interest (EoI) to enable close collaboration between User verticals and 5G Tech stakeholders (Service providers, Solution providers & partner OEMs).

About 5G Technology:

- 5G is the 5th generation mobile network.
- It is a new global wireless standard after 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G networks.
- Internet speeds in the high-band spectrum of 5G has been tested to be as high as 20 Gbps (gigabits per second).

Source: Indian Express

Utsav Portal

Why in News

- Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and DONER G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the 2 days Conference of **Amrit Samagam** being held from 12th – 13th April in New Delhi.
- During the inaugural day of the 2 days' Amrit Samagam Conference, G. Kishan Reddy also launched the **Utsav Portal**.



Key Points

- The Utsav Portal website, a digital initiative launched by the Ministry of Tourism, aims to showcase all the events, festivals and live darshans across India to promote different regions of the country as popular tourist destinations worldwide.

Note:

- The Ministry had also released a digital Calendar on the theme of dedicated tourist sites on AKAM (Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav) on the occasion of **National Tourism Day on 25th January**.
- The Ministry has sanctioned 03 projects during 2021-22 for a total amount of Rs 112.25 crore, with the objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations, under the **PRASHAD Scheme**.
- The Ministry has also recently revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as **Swadesh Darshan 2.0**.

Source: PIB



National Time Release Study, 2022

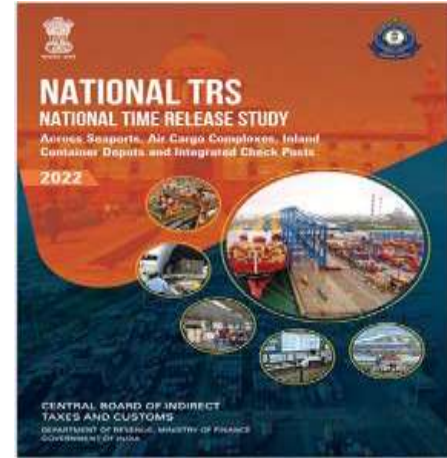
Why in News

- Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), released the **National Time Release Study (NTRS), 2022**.

Key Points

- NTRS 2022 is essentially a performance measurement tool for assessing the cargo clearance process of international trade, as recommended by the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).
- NTRS covered 15 major Customs formations, including four port categories - seaports, air cargo complexes (ACCs), inland container depot (ICDs) and integrated check posts (ICPs), which handle about 80 percent of the bills of entry (imports documents) and 70 percent of the shipping bills (export documents).
- The NTRS 2022 has reported further improvement in the average cargo release time for all the four port categories in 2022 over corresponding period of the previous year: by 2 percent for ICPs to significantly higher 16 percent for ACCs. For the sea cargo cleared through the sea port or inland container depots average release time has improved by 12 percent.
- With this improvement, the ICPs have achieved the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) target release time to be achieved by 2023, whereas the other three port categories have reached 75 percent of NTFAP target.

Source: PIB



State Energy and Climate Index Round- 1

Why in News

- NITI Aayog has launched the **State Energy & Climate Index (SECI)- Round I** on 11th April 2022.

Key Points

- Gujarat, Kerala, and Punjab** have been ranked as the top three performers in the category of larger states.
- Goa**, emerged as the top-performing state in the smaller states category, followed by Tripura, and Manipur.
- Among UTs, **Chandigarh, Delhi, and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli** are the top performers.
- The State Energy & Climate Index Round-I will help initiate a dialogue with the states on the energy sector so that much required policy improvements can be made.
- The State Energy & Climate Index Round-I ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely, (1) DISCOM's Performance (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy (3) Clean Energy Initiatives (4) Energy Efficiency (5) Environmental Sustainability; and (6) New Initiatives.
- The parameters are further divided into 27 indicators. Based on the composite SECI Round I score, the states and UTs are categorized into three groups: Front Runners, Achievers, and Aspirants.
- The states have been categorized based on size and geographical differences as larger states, smaller states, and UTs.

Source: PIB

Score and Ranking of Larger States

Rank	States/UTs	DISCOM's Performance	Access, affordability & reliability	Clean Energy Initiatives	Energy Efficiency	Env Sustainability	New Initiatives	SECI score
1	Gujarat	72.7	32.8	38.2	63.7	37.1	6.8	50.3
2	Kerala	68.8	37.2	21.1	3.8	49.9	7.7	49.1
3	Punjab	77.5	48.6	29.1	39.1	37	3.3	48.6
4	Haryana	59.8	33.8	42.5	11.7	33.8	6.8	47.8
5	Uttarakhand	43.8	13.2	18.2	20.6	49.7	14.7	46.8
6	Madhya Pradesh	57.7	31.2	8.8	28.7	38.2	10.8	46.0
7	Himachal Pradesh	67	38.2	14.2	20.1	32.1	20.1	45.4
8	Haryana	58.8	45.5	27	37.2	41.7	14.5	43.8
9	Tamil Nadu	57.3	46.5	21.7	33.4	39.2	4	43.4
10	Assam	47.3	38.2	4.2	39	39.9	17.8	42.8
11	Telangana	55.1	39.8	16	64.7	34.6	0.8	41.9
12	Andhra Pradesh	63.7	42.6	30.9	40	35	0	41.8
13	Uttar Pradesh	59.8	17.8	13.8	4.2	30.9	27.4	41.1
14	West Bengal	55.2	12	15.5	27.7	40.9	9	38.9
15	Bihar	61.2	45	4.9	22.8	33.7	7.6	38.2
16	Odisha	59.0	17.4	4.8	25.8	22.6	0.9	37.1
17	Haryana	49.2	42.9	15.5	44	31.4	4.8	35.4
18	Jharkhand	58.3	46.0	2.0	17.2	19	0.3	35.2
19	Haryana Pradesh	53.7	42.7	6.2	9.3	24.1	8.3	33.6
20	Chhattisgarh	38.4	45.4	2.1	0	5.8	4.2	31.7

Score and ranking of Smaller States

Rank	States/UTs	DISCOM's Performance	Access, affordability & reliability	Clean Energy Initiatives	Energy Efficiency	Env Sustainability	New Initiatives	SECI score
1	Goa	63.4	59.6	62.4	76.6	43.7	12.4	51.4
2	Tripura	57.3	33.1	22.9	31.7	39.6	58.7	45.0
3	Manipur	57.6	34.1	4.7	22.1	41.3	7.3	36.0
4	Mizoram	51.7	39.3	18.9	29.7	38.2	1.1	35.9
5	Sikkim	43.2	37.6	13.8	33.3	52.2	0.6	33.3
6	Meghalaya	47.9	30.9	1.9	4	39.8	2.8	29.4
7	Nagaland	35.9	32.9	12.2	26.4	40	3.4	27.9
8	Arunachal Pradesh	31.1	43.2	5.8	19.8	49	1.1	27.0

Score and ranking of Union Territories

Rank	States/UTs	DISCOM's Performance	Access, affordability & reliability	Clean Energy Initiatives	Energy Efficiency	Env Sustainability	New Initiatives	SECI score
1	Chandigarh	65.6	58.7	69.2	76.2	62.5	14.1	55.7
2	Delhi	66.2	38.3	67.2	43.9	38.6	49.7	55.6
3	D&D and D&N	71.3	60.3	68.6	0	36	7.9	53.2
4	Puducherry	67.9	57.7	20.3	0.6	42.7	37.9	48.5
5	A&N	37.7	35	20.6	1.3	49.5	0	29.4
6	J&K*	31.2	51.4	11.6	9.9	51.8	4.5	29.3
7	Lakshadweep	42.9	25.9	33.6	0	7.1	0	26.9



MoU signed between UIDAI and ISRO for technical collaboration

Why in News

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



Key Points

- NRSC will be developing the Bhuvan-Aadhaar portal providing information and locations of the aadhaar centres across India.
- NRSC will also provide a web based portal to collect and store data pertaining to existing and new enrolment centres to improve citizen centric services by carrying out regular statutory inspections.
- Bhuvan will facilitate complete geographic information storage, retrieval, analysis and reporting for Aadhaar centres, with a high resolution backdrop of natural color satellite images.

About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

- UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- UIDAI has so far issued Aadhaar numbers to more than 132 crore residents.

Source: PIB

First ever NTCA meeting outside National Capital held at Arunachal Pradesh

Why in News

- The 20th Meeting of **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** was held in Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- For the first time in history the NTCA meeting happened outside the national capital.



Key Points

- The NTCA has prepared a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) to deal with the reintroduction and supplementation.
- In order to help the tiger reserve managers assess their fire preparedness and manage the complete life cycle of forest fires, the NTCA has prepared a Forest Fire Audit Protocol for Tiger Reserves.
- Based on the suggestions made by the committee, the technical manual on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India is being released by NTCA.
- India harbors about 70% of the world's tiger population in the wild.

About National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

- NTCA was established in December 2005, following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.
- A programme for protection called, 'Tiger Protection Program' (popularly known as Project Tiger) was started in 1973, by the Government of India in co-operation with WWF.

Source: PIB

Ministry of I&B constitutes Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B)** has constituted an **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force**.



Key Points

- The AVGC Promotion Task Force shall be **headed by Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**.
- The AVGC Promotion Task Force will submit its first action plan within 90 days.
- The AVGC Promotion Task Force has been constituted to promote the AVGC sector in the country under the aegis of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic sector in India has the potential to become the torch bearer of "Create in India" & "Brand India".



- India has the potential to capture 5% (~\$40 billion) of the global market share by the year 2025, with an annual growth of around 25-30% and creating over 1,60,000 new jobs annually.

Source: The Hindu

Cabinet approves extension of Atal Innovation Mission

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved continuation of **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, till March 2023.



Key Points

The intended targets that will be achieved by AIM are:

- Establishing 10000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)
- Establishing 101 Atal Incubation Centers (AICs)
- Establishing 50 Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs)
- Supporting 200 startups via the Atal New India Challenges
- The total budgeted expenditure of Rs. 2000+ crore shall be incurred in the process of the establishment and supporting the beneficiaries.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

- The Mission has been set up under the NITI Aayog, in accordance with the Finance Minister's declaration in the 2015 Budget Speech.
- The objectives of the AIM are to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country via interventions at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.

Source: Business Standard

Cabinet approves distribution of fortified rice across Government Schemes

Why in News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has accorded its approval for supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN [erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)] and Other Welfare



Schemes (OWS) of Government of India in all States and Union Territories (UTs) by 2024 in a phased manner.

Key Points

- The entire cost of rice fortification (around Rs. 2,700 crore per annum) would be borne by the Govt. of India as part of food subsidy till its full implementation upto June, 2024.
- The FCI and State Agencies are already engaged in procurement of fortified rice and so far nearly 88.65 LMT of fortified rice has been procured for the supply and distribution.
- Earlier, the Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on "Fortification of Rice and its Distribution under Public Distribution System" was implemented for a period of 3 years beginning from 2019-20.
- Eleven States- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand successfully distributed the fortified rice in their identified districts (one district per State) under the pilot scheme.

Source: Indian Express

'AVSAR' Scheme

Why in News

- **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has taken an initiative to allocate space to **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region through '**AVSAR**' Scheme.



Key Points

About "AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region) Scheme:

- Under "AVSAR", 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.
- Under this scheme, an area of 100-200 square feet has been earmarked at each AAI operated airport.
- The space is being allotted to the self- help groups, turn on turn basis, for a duration of 15 days.
- Few outlets have already been commissioned at Chennai, Agartala, Dehradun, Kushinagar, Udaipur & Amritsar Airport wherein SHGs operated by local women, are showcasing and marketing their homemade local products like Puffed Rice, Packaged Papad, Pickles, Bamboo based Ladies Bag/Bottle/Lamp Sets, local artefacts, traditional craft, natural dyes,



embroidery and indigenous weaves with contemporary design to the air travellers.

Source: PIB

State

Mumbai recognized as '2021 Tree City of the World' by United Nations

Why in News

- **Mumbai** has been recognised as '2021 Tree City of the World' by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) jointly with Arbor Day Foundation.



Key Points

- Mumbai received recognition for its "commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities".
- Mumbai is the second city in India to receive this distinction.
- Previously, Hyderabad was the only city in India to receive this honour.
- The United Nations' 'Tree City of the World' programme provides direction, assistance, and worldwide recognition for communities' dedication to its urban forest, and provides a framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry.

Source: Indian Express

Polity

Policy for use of land acquired under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957

Why in News

- The Union Cabinet has approved the policy for use of land acquired under the **Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 [CBA Act]**.



Key Points

- The policy provides for utilisation of such land for the purpose of development and setting up of infrastructure relating to coal and energy.
- The CBA Act provides for acquisition of coal bearing lands and their vesting in Government companies, free from any encumbrance.
- The approved policy provides a clear policy framework for utilisation of following types of lands acquired under the CBA Act: Lands no longer suitable or economically viable for coal mining activities; or Lands from which coal has been mined out / de-coaled and such land has been reclaimed.
- The Government coal companies, such as Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries shall remain owners of these lands acquired under the CBA Act and the policy allows only leasing of the land for the specified purposes given in the policy.

Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957:

- **CBA Act, 1957** provides for the acquisition of land containing or likely to contain coal deposits and for matters connected therewith.
- For other requirements, like permanent infrastructure, offices, residence etc. the land is acquired under Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

Source: HT

Defense

India - Australia Maritime Patrol Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) Coordinated Operations

Why in News

- A **P8I Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA)** of the Indian Navy has arrived at Darwin, Australia.



Key Points

- The aircraft and its crew would be undertaking an operational turnaround at Darwin.
- During its stay, the team from the Indian Navy's maritime patrol squadron, Albatross, is scheduled to engage with its counterparts from the 92 Wing of the Royal Australian Air Force.
- P8 aircraft from both the countries, would be conducting coordinated operations in Anti-Submarine Warfare and surface surveillance, to enhance maritime domain awareness.



- The P8 aircraft, with their demonstrated long reach, have operated jointly during **Malabar and AUSINDEX series of exercises**, and have a common understanding of operating procedures and information sharing.

Source: India Today

Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' successfully flight tested

Why in News

- Indigenously developed helicopter launched **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) 'HELINA'** was successfully flight tested at high-altitude ranges as part of user validation trials in Pokhran.



Key Points

- The flight-test was jointly conducted by the teams of scientists from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The flight trials were conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and the missile was fired successfully engaging a simulated tank target.
- Helina has a maximum range of seven kilometers and has been designed and developed for integration on weaponized versions of the ALH.
- Helina has been developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad under the Missiles and Strategic Systems (MSS) cluster of the DRDO. Successful user trials of the missile have been conducted since 2018.

Source: Indian Express

Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition Rocket Systems successfully flight-tested by DRDO & Indian Army

Why in News

- **Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems** have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at Pokhran Firing Ranges.



Key Points



Weekly Current Affairs

- The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another Pune-based laboratory of DRDO.
- The EPRS is the upgraded version of the Pinaka variant which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade.
- The system has been upgraded with advanced technologies enhancing the range to meet the emerging requirements.

Note:

- Earlier, DRDO successfully flight tested **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** booster at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- In continuation with Government's efforts to promote Private Industry, MSMEs and Start-ups in defence production ecosystem, the Ministry of Defence has now decided that 25% of the Domestic Capital Procurement/Acquisition Budget, amounting to Rs. 21,149.47 Crore, will be earmarked for Domestic Private Industry in the Financial Year 2022-23.

Source: PIB

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releases the third positive indigenisation list

Why in News

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the **third positive indigenisation list of 101 items**, comprising major equipment/platforms.
- It is based on the first list (101) and second list (108) that were promulgated on August 21, 2020 and May 31, 2021 respectively.



Key Points

- The list, notified by the Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence, lays special focus on equipment/systems, which are being developed and likely to translate into firm orders in the next five years.
- These weapons and platforms are planned to be indigenised progressively with effect from December 2022 to December 2027.
- These 101 items will, henceforth, be procured from local sources as per provisions of **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**.
- The third list comprises highly complex Systems, Sensors, Weapons and Ammunitions like Light Weight Tanks, Mounted Arty Gun Systems, Guided Extended Range (GER) Rocket for PINAKA MLRS, Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH), Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV) etc.



Related Initiatives:

- In May 2020, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit under the automatic route in the defence sector was hiked from 49% to 74%.
- Corporatization of the Ordnance Factory Boards
- Defence India Startup Challenge
- SRIJAN Portal
- E-Biz Portal

Source: PIB

Science & Technology

IIT Madras launches India's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee 'Kadam'

Why in News

- **IIT Madras** researchers have launched the country's first Made-in-India polycentric prosthetic knee '**Kadam**'.

Key Points

- The polycentric knee has been developed in association with **Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT)** and **Mobility India**.
- **SBMT** was established under DRDO by former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam to enable indigenous medical device development.
- **Mobility India**, an NGO in Bengaluru, will mass manufacture and take Kadam to the market along with overseeing the processes of fitment and training and ensuring easy access for the users.
- It was developed by a team at TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at IIT Madras, which also developed and commercialized 'Arise,' the country's first standing wheelchair and NeoFly-NeoBolt, an active wheelchair.

Source: India Today



Sports

Australia's Victoria state to host 2026 Commonwealth Games

Why in News

- **Australia's Victoria state** will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Key Points

- The Games will be staged in March 2026 across multiple cities and regional hubs including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland, each with its own athletes' village.
- An initial list of 16 sports, including Twenty20 cricket, have been put forward for the Games, with further sports to be added later this year.
- It will be the sixth time that Australia has staged the Commonwealth Games and the second time in Victoria.

Note: The 2022 Commonwealth Games are due to be held in Birmingham, England, from July 28 to August 8.

About Commonwealth Games:

- The Commonwealth Games, often referred to as the Friendly Games, is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations.
- The event was first held in 1930, and, with the exception of 1942 and 1946, has taken place every four years since then.

Source: Indian Express



Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd Indian to score 10,000 runs in T20

Why in News

- **Rohit Sharma** has become only the second Indian after Virat Kohli to score 10,000 runs in the T20 cricket.

Key Points

- India and Mumbai Indians skipper achieved this milestone during the IPL 2022 match of Mumbai Indians against Punjab Kings in Pune.
- Rohit Sharma became the seventh batter overall to reach the 10 thousand runs in T20s.



- West Indian legend Chris Gayle is leading the list of run-getters with 14,562 runs to his name followed by Pakistan's Shoaib Malik (11698), West Indies Kieron Pollard (11474), Australia's Aaron Finch (10499), Virat Kohli (10379) and Australia's David Warner (10373).

Source: newsonair

Netherlands lift fourth FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 title

- The **Netherlands** lifted their fourth FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 title after beating Germany in the final at Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- Earlier, England defeated India in the shoot-out after a 2-2 draw to claim the bronze medal in the third-place match.
- The **2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup** is the ninth edition of the Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup, the biennial women's under-21 field hockey world championship organized by the International Hockey Federation.



Source: newsonair

India win first ever gold medal at WSF World Doubles Squash championships 2022

- India's Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal defeated Adrian Waller and Alison Waters of England in the mixed doubles finals to win India's first ever gold medal at WSF World Doubles Squash championship 2022 at Glasgow, Scotland.
- Apart from this, Dipika Pallikal also won the women's doubles gold with her partner Joshna Chinappa.



Source: newsonair



Awards & Honours

Falguni Nayar wins EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2021

Why in News

- Falguni Nayar, Founder & CEO, Nykaa, has been named EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2021.

Key Points

- Nayar will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on June 9, 2022.
- The EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) Awards is a global business awards programme which is celebrated across 60 countries.



Source: Business Today

NMDC wins two awards at 80th SKOCH Summit 2022

Why in News

- The largest iron ore producer of India, **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)**, under Ministry of Steel awarded one gold and one silver award in the 80th SKOCH Summit 2022.

Key Points

- The theme for the SKOCH Summit was 'State of BFSI & PSUs'.
- NMDC won the Gold Award in the category social responsibility for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi' and the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation.

Source: The Hindu



56th Jnanpith Award presented to Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan

Why in News

- Eminent Assamese poet **Nilamani Phookan** was conferred the **56th Jnanpith Award**, the ceremony of which was held for the first time in Assam.



Key Points

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Chairperson of Jnanpith Selection Board Pratibha Ray handed over the trophy, cheque and other mementos to the 88-year-old Phookan.
- Phookan is the third Assamese to receive the Jnanpith Award after novelist Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya (1979) and Mamoni Raisom Goswami (2000).
- Phookan had won the Sahitya Academy Award in 1981 for his poetry collection 'Kobita'.
- He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 1990 and the Sahitya Academy Fellowship in 2002.

About Jnanpith Award:

- The Jnanpith Award is the oldest and the highest Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature".

Source: Indian Express

PM Narendra Modi to receive inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award, instituted in the memory of the veteran singer (Lata Mangeshkar) who passed away in February this year.



Key Points

- Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan informed that the award ceremony will be held on 24th of April at Mumbai's Shanmukhanand Hall.
- The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar will be given every year to only one individual who has made path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to the nation, its people and society.

Source: India Today



Vice-President confers Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards and Lalit Kala Akademi Awards

- Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Sangeet Natak Awards** for the year 2018 to 44 eminent artists (4 Fellows and 40 awardees), and 3 Fellows and 20 National Awards of **Lalit Kala Akademi** for the year 2021 in a joint ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi has elected four Fellows in the year 2018 for their eminent contribution in the field of the Performing Arts, namely Shri Zakir Hussain, Shri Jatin Goswami, Dr. Sonal Mansingh and Shri Thiruvaidaimarudur Kuppiyah Kalyanasundaram.
- The Lalit Kala Akademi has awarded the prestigious Fellowship to three outstanding artists with an expansive oeuvre namely Shri Himmat Shah, Shri Jyoti Bhatt and Shri Shyam Sharma.



About Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards:

- Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) are national honours bestowed by the Republic of India on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.
- The recipients are selected by the Akademi's General Council, consisting of distinguished musicians, dancers, theatre artists and scholars in these disciplines and nominees of the Government of India, State Governments and Union Territories of the Indian Union.

Source: PIB

Appointments/Resignations

Iqbal Singh Lalpura reappointed as Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities

Why in News

- The central government re-appointed retired Punjab-cadre IPS Officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura as the chairperson of the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**.



Key Points

- Lalpura, who was first appointed as chairman in September last year, had to resign from the post in December to contest as the BJP candidate from Ropar assembly constituency, which he lost.

About National Commission for Minorities (NCM):

- The Union Government set up the National Commission for Minorities under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- Six religious communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by the Union Government all over India.
- **Founded:** 17 May 1993
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Source: HT

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to be G20 coordinator

Why in News

- Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will be appointed as coordinator for the G20 summit, which will be hosted by India in 2023.



Key Points

- Shringla, who retires on April 30, 2022, will take charge of his new role as G20 coordinator on May 1, 2022.
- This is a newly created role for organising the summit. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will remain the G20 sherpa.
- India will hold the presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

About the G-20:

- The G-20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies.
- Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet.
- The G-20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.
- The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

Source: Indian Express



Shehbaz Sharif elected Pakistan's 23rd Prime Minister

Why in News

- Shehbaz Sharif, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president, was elected unopposed as the 23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan by the National Assembly, after a week-long constitutional crisis that climaxed when Imran Khan lost a no-confidence vote.



Key Points

- Shehbaz, the younger brother of former three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, received 174 votes.
- He has served as chief minister of the country's most populous and politically crucial Punjab province thrice.

Source: HT

Eminent scholar-academician Manoj Soni appointed as UPSC's new chairman

Why in News

- Recently, eminent scholar-academician, **Dr Manoj Soni** was appointed as the new Chairman of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.



Key Points

- Manoj Soni succeeds Pradip Kumar Joshi.
- Prior to this, Dr Manoj served as the vice-chancellor of two universities.

About Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

- UPSC is India's premier central recruitment agency for recruitment of all the Group 'A' officers under Government of India.
- The agency's charter is granted by Part XIV of the Constitution of India, titled as Services Under the Union and the States.
- **Formed:** 1 October 1926
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Source: ET



Books & Authors

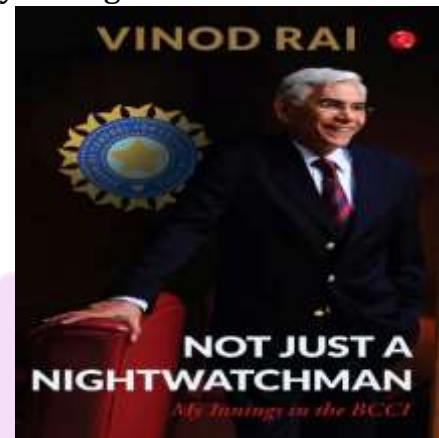
Former CAG Vinod Rai's book 'Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI'

Why in News

- Former CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) and chief of Supreme court-appointed CoA (Committee of Administrators), Vinod Rai has penned a book titled as, "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI".

Key Points

- In the book Vinod Rai has narrated his stint of 33 months at BCCI, when he was appointment as the head of the Supreme Court-mandated Committee of Administrators (CoA) in the BCCI.
- The book has been published by Rupa Publications India.
- Vinod Rai is a former IAS officer who served as the 11th Comptroller and Auditor General of India.



Geetanjali Shree's 'Tomb of Sand' first Hindi novel on International Booker shortlist

Why in News

- Author **Geetanjali Shree's** novel '**Tomb of Sand**' became the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the **International Booker Prize**.



Key Points

- Shree's book, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell and described by the judges as "loud and irresistible novel", will compete with five other titles from around the world for the prestigious 50,000 pounds literary prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator.
- Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh-born Shree is an author of three novels and several story collections, with her work translated into English, French, German, Serbian, and Korean.



- Complementing the Booker Prize for Fiction, the international prize is awarded every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- The winner for 2022 will be announced at a ceremony in London on May 26.

Source: Indian Express

Important Days

April 14, World Chagas Disease Day

Why in News

- World Chagas Disease Day is celebrated on April 14 to raise awareness around chagas disease.

Key Points

- The **theme** for 2022 is 'finding and reporting every case to defeat chagas disease'.



History:

- It was first celebrated on April 14, 2020, following the approval and endorsement received by the World Health Assembly at WHO in May 2019.
- It was named after Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas, the Brazilian doctor who diagnosed the first case on April 14, 1909.

Note: World Chagas Disease Day is one of 11 official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Tuberculosis Day, World Health Day, World Malaria Day, World Immunization Week, World No Tobacco Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Hepatitis Day, World Patient Safety Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and World AIDS Day.

Source: who.int

April 13, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

Why in News

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919.



Key Points

- Around 50 soldiers of the British Indian Army, under the command of Colonel Reginald Dyer, fired on unarmed people who had gathered for Baisakhi at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar.
- The people, a majority of whom were Sikhs, had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh to celebrate Baisakhi and also to condemn the arrest and deportation of two freedom fighters, Satya Pal and Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew.
- According to the British government, 379 people died and 1,200 were wounded in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Source: HT

April 10, World Homeopathy Day

Why in News

- World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on April 10.

Key Points

- World Homoeopathy Day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann to mark his 267th birth anniversary.

Note:

- A two-day scientific convention was organised on 9th & 10th April 2022 in New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Ayush by three apex bodies, namely, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, National Commission for Homoeopathy and National Institute of Homoeopathy.
- The theme of this scientific convention was 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness'.

Source: Business Standard



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