

# Weekly Current Affair

## साप्ताहिक करेंट अफेयर्स



(17-23 April 2022)

# Weekly Current Affairs

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# Weekly Current Affairs

## International Relations

### 1. Yemeni president Abdrabbuh Hadi steps down under Saudi pressure

#### Why in News

- Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, President of Yemen stepped down under pressure from Saudi Arabia and is now under de-facto house arrest.

#### Key Points

- Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi stepped down after 7 years of war in the country and handed over his power to the newly created presidential council, which consists of 8 political leaders.
- The council's formation was announced following inter-Yemeni consultations in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh, where the Saudi leadership called on the council to initiate talks with the Houthis to establish peace in Yemen, which had been torn by violent conflict for years.

#### Facts about Yemen:

- Yemen, officially the Republic of Yemen, is a country in Western Asia, on the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Capital:** Sana'a
- Currency:** Yemeni rial

Source: Business Standard



### 2. Ukraine requests US to designate Russia as a “State Sponsor of Terrorism”

#### Why in News

- Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has asked President Joe Biden to designate Russia as a “**State Sponsor of Terrorism**”, which would activate perhaps the harshest suite of sanctions available with the United States against the government of President Vladimir Putin.



## Key Points

- The US Secretary of State (the minister primarily in charge of foreign relations) has the power to designate countries that “have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism” as “State Sponsors of Terrorism”.
- The US can place **four categories of sanctions** on countries that are on this list: restrictions on US foreign assistance; a ban on defence exports and sales; certain controls over exports of dual use items; and miscellaneous financial and other restrictions.
- Sanctions can also be placed on countries and persons that engage in certain trade with designated countries.

## Countries on the list:

- As of now, there are four countries on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.
- The first to be designated among them was Syria (December 29, 1979), followed by Iran (January 19, 1984), and North Korea (November 20, 2017). Cuba was re-designated as a state sponsor of terrorism on January 12, 2021.

## Statutes authorising designation:

- There are currently three statutes that authorise the Secretary of State to designate a foreign government for repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism:
  - (i) Section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
  - (ii) Section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA)
  - (iii) Section 1754(c) of the Export Controls Act of 2018

Source: Indian Express

## National

### 3. 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-





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Reformation (NSCN-R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-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

## 4. 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

## 5. 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

## 6. 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

## 7. 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



## 8. PM Modi inaugurates Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit in Gujarat

### Why in News

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2022** at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) were present on the occasion.



**Key Points**

- The Summit will help uncover investment potential, and give a fillip to innovation, research & development, start-up ecosystem, and the wellness industry.
- Prime Minister Modi also digitally launched Ayush Export Promotion Council on this occasion.
- He also launched IT initiatives like Ayush Information Hub, Ayush next, Ayusoft etc.
- He also announced to create a new category for Indian VISA- Ayush VISA, so that foreigners can avail the benefit of Indian expertise in Ayush sector.
- India is also going to make a special AYUSH Mark. This Mark will be applied to the highest quality AYUSH products made in India.
- FSSAI has also announced a new category named 'AYUSH Aahar' in its regulations last week.

**Note:**

- The AYUSH sector was less than \$3 billion in 2014, which has now crossed \$ 18 billion.
- Two MoUs have been also signed by Ministry of Defence with Ministry of AYUSH, one for starting Ayurveda Centres at 37 Cantonment Hospitals and another for starting Ayurveda Centres at 12 Military Hospitals of Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS).

Source: newsonair

**9. Central Government amends Nidhi Rules, 2014****Why in News**

- The **Ministry of Company Affairs** said that the Central Government has amended **Nidhi Rules, 2014** to safeguard the interest of general public.

**Key Points**

- Under the Companies Act, 1956, a **Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society** meant a company which the Central Government declared as Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society by notification in the official gazette.
- Under the Companies Act, 2013, initially there was no need for a company to get declaration from Central Government to function as a Nidhi Company.



सत्यमेव जयते

**M** MINISTRY OF  
**C** CORPORATE  
**A** AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA





- Such companies were required to only incorporate as a Nidhi and meet requirements under sub-rule (1) of rule 5 of Nidhi Rules viz., minimum membership of 200, Net Owned Fund of Rs. 10 lakh, NOF to deposit ratio of 1:20 and keeping 10% unencumbered deposits in schedule commercial banks or post offices within one year of commencement of Nidhi Rules, 2014.
- After the amendment in the Companies Act, 2013 w.e.f. 15.08.2019 and resultant amendments in Nidhi Rules, 2014 w.e.f. 15.08.2019, companies incorporated as Nidhis were required to apply to the Central Government in Form NDH-4 for declaration within 14 months of incorporation, if they were incorporated after the commencement of the Nidhi (Amendment) Rules w.e.f. 15.08.2019 and within 09 months of commencement of the Nidhi (Amendment) Rules w.e.f. 15.08.2019, if they were incorporated as Nidhis after 2014 but prior to 15.08.2019.

**Note:**

- Under the Companies Act, 1956, about 390 companies were declared as Nidhi companies only.
- During 2014-2019, more than ten thousand companies get incorporated.

Source: PIB

## 10. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967

**Why in News**

- A commander and associate member of terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, Sheikh Sajad has been notified as a terrorist under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967**.

**Key Points**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs in a notification said, Sheikh Sajad has been actively radicalizing, motivating and recruiting youth of Jammu and Kashmir to support terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba and has been involved in terror funding.

**About Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967:**

- It is an Indian law aimed at prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Its main objective was to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.



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- The most recent amendment of the law, the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 (UAPA 2019)** has made it possible for the Union Government to designate individuals as terrorists without a due process of law.
- UAPA is also known as the Anti-terror law.

Source: newsonair

### 11. PM Modi lays the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat

#### Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)** in Jamnagar, Gujarat on April 19, 2022, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO).
- The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation a new dairy complex and potato processing plant at Diyodar, Banaskantha district. The new dairy complex is a greenfield project.



#### Key Points

##### About WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM):

- GCTM will be the first and only global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the world.
- It will emerge as an international hub of global wellness.
- It will focus on data, innovation and sustainability and will optimize the use of traditional medicine.

**Note:** In 2016, the Ministry of AYUSH signed a PCA (Project Collaboration Agreement) with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the area of traditional medicine.

Source: newsonair

### 12. Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing

#### Why in News

- Recently, Visiting Finland Minister of Economic Affairs, Mika Lintila met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh and the two Ministers announced the decision to establish an **Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing**.



## Key Points

- Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Indian side has identified three premier institutes viz IIT Madras, IISER Pune and C-DAC Pune for Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing.
- India is keen to develop research collaborations with Finnish R&D institutions and technology collaboration with Finnish Industry especially focusing on the following technology domains and application of Quantum Computing in areas such as: Sustainable Energy Technologies, Environment and Clean Technologies, Biobased Economy, BioBanks and Bio based materials for different applications, Water and Marine Technologies, Food & Agri Technologies, Affordable Healthcare, Technologies for Advanced Manufacturing, Integration of AI and Machine Learning in all domains.

**Note:** India and Finland are consultative members of the Antarctic Treaty and have active stations in Antarctica. Finland would be hosting the **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)** in 2023 and India in 2024.

**Source: The Hindu**

## 13. National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India)

### Why in News

- **National Security Council Secretariat** organised **National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India)** for Government officials and Critical Sector Organisations to strengthen India's Cyber posture.
- National Cyber Exercise (NCX) India is being conducted as a hybrid exercise over a period of ten days from 18 to 29 April 2022.



### Key Points

#### About National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India):

- The program is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Govt. of India in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) as the Knowledge Partner and supported by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The platform for training is being provided by CyberExer Technologies, an Estonian cybersecurity company accredited for globally conducting several large cyber exercises.
- The participants will be trained on various key cyber security areas such as Intrusion Detection Techniques, Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), Vulnerability Handling & Penetration Testing, Network Protocols & Data Flows, Digital Forensics, etc.



**Cyber Security Initiatives:**

- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra
- Information Technology Act, 2000
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

Source: PIB

## 14. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers fighting COVID-19

**Why in News**

- The 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), insurance scheme for Health Care Workers Fighting COVID-19' has been extended for a further period of 180 days from 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

**Key Points**

- It has been decided to extend the policy so as to continue to provide the safety net to the dependents of health workers who are deputed to take care of COVID-19 patients.

**About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP):**

- The PMGKP was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs. 50 Lakh to 22.12 lakh health care providers including community health workers and private health workers who may have been in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients and may be at risk of being impacted by this.
- Further, on account of the unprecedented situation, private hospital staff/retired/ volunteer/local urban bodies/contract/daily wage/ad-hoc/outsourced staff requisitioned by states/central hospitals/autonomous hospitals of central/states/UTs, AIIMS & Institute of National Importance/hospitals of Central Ministries specifically drafted for care of COVID-19 patients are also covered under the PMGKP.
- Since the launch of the scheme, so far, 1905 claims of Health workers who died while being deployed for COVID related duties have been settled.

**Note:** Earlier, the Union Cabinet extended the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** by another 6 months till September 2022.

Source: PIB





## 15. India's National Cyber Security Strategy

### Why in News

- In 2020, the National Cyber Security Strategy was conceptualised by the Data Security Council of India (DSCI) headed by Lt General Rajesh Pant.



### Key Points

- Amid a surge in cyberattacks on India's networks, the Centre is yet to implement the National Cyber Security Strategy which has been in the works since 2020.

### Need for a National Cyber Security Strategy:

- Increasing Number of Cyber Attacks: As per American cyber security firm Palo Alto Networks' 2021 report, Maharashtra was the most targeted state in India — facing 42% of all ransomware attacks.
- Cyber Warfare Offensives
- Increased Digital usage Post-Covid
- There were 6.97 lakh cyber security incidents reported in the first eight months of 2020, nearly equivalent to the previous four years combined, according to information reported to and tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

### Present Government Initiatives for Cyber Security:

- Cyber Swachhta Kendra
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
- Online cybercrime reporting portal
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
- Information Technology Act, 2000

Source: The Hindu

## 16. Extreme poverty in India decline 12.3% in 2011-2019: World Bank

### Why in News

- According to a policy research working paper of World Bank, Poverty in India is 12.3% lower in 2019 compared with 2011. The poverty headcount rate has declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019.



### Key Points

- Poverty reduction was higher in rural areas as against urban India.



- Rural poverty dropped by 14.7% while urban poverty declined by 7.9% during 2011 to 2019.
- According to the study, farmers with small landholding sizes have experienced higher income growth. Real incomes for farmers with the smallest landholdings have grown by 10% in annualized terms between the two survey rounds in 2013 and 2019 compared to a 2% growth for farmers with the largest landholding.

Source: Business Standard

## 17. Mauritius PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth arrives on 8-day visit in India

### Why in News

- **Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth** is in India on an eight-day visit (April 17 to 24, 2022) to strengthen ties between the two countries in both economic as well as strategic sectors, especially in maritime security.



### Key Points

- India and Mauritius enjoy uniquely close ties, bound by shared history, culture and heritage.
- Jugnauth will participate in the ground-breaking ceremony of the WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar on April 19 and the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit in Gandhinagar on April 20, along with PM Narendra Modi.
- India has been one of the largest trading partners and exporter of goods and services to Mauritius since 2007.
- India's exports to Mauritius are largely of petroleum products. Besides petroleum products, main items of India's exports to Mauritius are pharmaceuticals, cereals, cotton etc. Main items of Mauritius exports to India are vanilla, instruments and apparatus for medical/surgical sciences, needles, aluminum alloys among others.

### Note:

- In March 2022, Mauritius became a member of the Colombo Security Conclave, a grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The grouping of NSAs from these countries works for regional security by focusing on areas such as maritime security, countering terrorism, combating trans-national crime and cyber security.
- Earlier in January 2022, PM Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth had jointly inaugurated the India-assisted social housing units project in Mauritius virtually. They also launched the Civil Service



College and 8 MW Solar PV Farm project in Mauritius that is being undertaken under India's development support.

Source: Indian Express

## 18. Agriculture Minister launches two online portals CROP and PQMS of Plant Protection Division

### Why in News

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar launched two portals, one for the **Computerized Registration of pesticide (CROP)** and the other for **Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS)**.



### Key Points

- The new portals will benefit farmers, exporters as well as industrialists.
- 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 PQMS portal will provide a transparent system with no physical touch points for the applicants and ensure convenience to the users, through an online system including e-payments and uploading of documents, online accreditation and renewal of treatment agencies/facilities and downloading of certificates.
- Similarly, the re-developed CROP portal will immensely help in ease of doing business and provide greater and timely Crop protection solutions to farmers of the country.

Source: newsonair

## 19. 40th 'Hunar Haat'

### Why in News

- Recently, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Thakur inaugurated the **40th edition of the 'Hunar Haat'** in the presence of Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, in Mumbai.



## Key Points

- The 40th edition of Hunar Haat, a credible platform to promote 'Swadeshi' products, is being held in Mumbai from 16th to 27th April, 2022.
- In this 40th edition of Hunar Haat, more than a thousand craftsmen and artisans coming from 31 states have put up 400 stalls.
- The Minister also spoke about '**One District One Product**', where each district is recognised for one product.
- Shri Thakur also informed about **Tejas'a skilling programme** which has been launched by Govt. of India. Under this initiative India will send skilled manpower to the UAE.
- Hunar Haats are organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under **USTTAD** (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.

Source: PIB

## 20. 2021 Human Rights Report on India: United States

### Why in News

- The US State Department released a strong and critical Report on Human Rights in India in 2021.

### Key Points

- The report is submitted each year to the US Congress.

### Key Highlights of the Report:

- Indian law "prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention but both occurred during the year", with police using "special security laws to postpone judicial reviews of arrests".
- India has "significant human rights issues" such as "restrictions on free expression and media, including violence" and "threats of violence, or unjustified arrests or prosecutions against journalists".
- The India chapter of the report also cited "terrorists and extremists perpetrating killings, violence, and intimidation" against journalists critical of the government.
- The report noted India was downgraded from free to partly free in the Freedom in the World 2021 report, and said the government had blocked Twitter accounts of several journalists who covered the farmers' protest last year.
- The report highlighted the cases of Amnesty International India, whose assets were frozen by the Enforcement Directorate, and the suspension of





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the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) license of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) for alleged violations.

### Human Rights Related Provisions in India:

#### Enunciated in the Constitution:

- Fundamental Rights: Articles 12 to 35 of the Constitution
- Directive Principles of State Policy: Article 36 to 51 of the Constitution

#### Statutory Provisions:

- Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 (as amended in 2019)
- India took an active part in drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Source: The Hindu

## State

### 21. 'Radio Aksh' - India's first radio channel for visually-impaired people launched in Maharashtra

#### Why in News

- Country's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named '**Radio Aksh**' has been launched in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

#### Key Points

- It has been launched with the help of 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, access to which was cut off due to the COVID-19 pandemic due to restrictions on travelling.

Source: TOI



### 22. In a first, Maharashtra app maps workers' migration for portability of ICDS scheme

#### Why in News

- In a first of its kind project in the country, the Maharashtra government has developed a website-based **Migration Tracking System (MTS)** application to



map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers.

### Key Points

- The state government's women and child development (WCD) department launched it as a pilot project in November last year in six districts with high tribal population including Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Amravati, Jalna, Palghar and Nandurbar.
- The MTS project is envisaged to maintain the continuity of the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** like nutrition supply, immunisation and health check-up etc. to migrant beneficiaries including children aged up to 18 years, lactating mothers and pregnant women registered with the anganwadi centres.
- Their migration will be tracked for ensuring the portability of the ICDS for their families in their destination districts within or outside the state until their return to their native places.

### About Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It was launched in 1975.

### Schemes under the ICDS:

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
- Anganwadi Services Scheme
- National Creche Scheme
- Scheme for Adolescent Girls
- POSHAN Abhiyaan
- Child Protection Scheme

Source: Indian Express

## Economy

### 23. 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

## 24. IMF slashes forecast for India's FY23 GDP growth to 8.2% from earlier 9%

**Why in News**

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, in its latest **World Economic Outlook Report** released recently, slashed its forecast for India's FY23 GDP growth to 8.2 percent from earlier 9 percent.

**Key Points**

- The IMF has also slashed its global growth outlook for calendar year 2022 to 3.6 percent from 4.4 percent saying that global economic prospects have worsened significantly due to commodity price volatility and disruption of supply chains caused by the war in Europe.

**Note:** Earlier, the World Bank has cut India's GDP forecast for FY22-23 to 8 percent. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also sharply cut India's growth projection at 7.2 percent for FY22-23, while the second advance estimate of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had said that GDP growth would be 8.9 percent.

**Facts about International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- **Formation:** 27 December 1945
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., U.S.
- **Membership:** 190 countries



- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva
  - **First Deputy Managing Director:** Gita Gopinath
- Source:** TOI

## 25. Government amends FEMA rules to allow 20% FDI in LIC

### Why in News

- The Central government has amended rules of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)**, paving the way for up to 20 percent **FDI (Foreign Direct Investment)** in the insurance behemoth **LIC**.



### Key Points

- The government is planning to dilute its stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- LIC in February, 2022 had filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) before the markets regulator SEBI for the IPO.
- Following the Cabinet approval, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on March 14, 2022 had amended the Foreign Direct Investment policy to facilitate overseas investment in LIC ahead of the mega public offer.
- FEMA notification was required to operationalise the provisions DPIIT issued through a press note, including FDI policy changes that will allow large foreign portfolio investors to subscribe to shares of LIC.
- These rules may be called the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
- The notification has inserted a paragraph in the existing policy, allowing up to 20 percent FDI in LIC through the automatic route.
- Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, (LIC Act) as amended from time to time and such provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, as amended from time to time, as are applicable to LIC.

### About Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA):

- FEMA is an Act of the Parliament of India "to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange with the objective of facilitating external trade and payments and for promoting the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India".
- It was passed in 1999 in parliament, replacing the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA).
- It enabled a new foreign exchange management regime consistent with the emerging framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO).





Source: Business Standard

## Defence

### 26. Sixth scorpene submarine 'INS Vagsheer' launched in Mumbai

#### Why in News

- Yard 11880, the sixth and last submarine 'INS Vagsheer' of the Indian Navy's Kalvari class submarines of Project 75 has been launched at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).



#### Key Points

- The first of the Project - 75 submarines was commissioned into the Navy in December 2017 and presently four submarines (INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi and INS Karang, and INS Vela) of this Project are in commission in the Indian Navy.
- The fifth submarine 'INS Vagir' is progressing with the Sea Trials and is likely to be delivered this year.
- The sixth submarine will now commence setting to work of various equipment and their harbour trials.
- The submarines are being manufactured at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with Naval Group, France.

Source: HT

### 27. Defence Secretary inaugurates National Level Pollution Response Exercise 'NATPOLREX-VIII'

#### Why in News

- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of two-day (April 19-20, 2022) **National Level Pollution Response Exercise, 'NATPOLREX-VIII'**, conducted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off Mormugao harbour, Goa.



#### Key Points



- The event was attended by more than 85 participants from 50 agencies, including 29 observers from 22 friendly foreign countries & International Organisations and two Coast Guard ships from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- The objective of NATPOLREX-VIII is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills.
- It aims at validating 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.
- Today, the Indian Coast Guard is capable of handling the highest level of oil spills in this region, which is 700 tonnes and above.

**Note:** Besides NATPOLREX, ICG is concurrently conducting a capacity building professional training course in Marine Oil Response and Preparedness for 45 international participants from 18 countries including member states from **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** at Chennai from April 18-29, 2022.

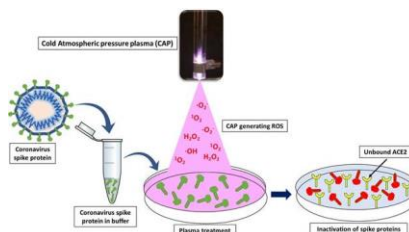
**Source:** India Today

## Science & Technology

### 28. Indian scientists develop plasma-based decontaminant for COVID-

#### Why in News

- Indian Scientists have developed a plasma-based disinfectant generated with the help of **Cold Atmospheric Pressure Plasma (CAP)** which could act as a green decontaminant for COVID 19.



#### Key Points

- A team of scientists from the Life Sciences and Physical Sciences divisions from the Institute of the Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), an autonomous research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, Guwahati, Assam has demonstrated that the plasma generated by cold atmospheric pressure has the potential to deactivate SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which binds to human ACE2 receptor for inducing viral infection and subsequent COVID-19.
- **Plasma**, the fourth state of matter which makes up most of the universe when produced in controlled conditions in the lab and is termed as **Cold Atmospheric Pressure Plasma (CAP)**.



- This research recently published in the international journal of the RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry) Advances shows that short-lived highly reactive oxygen and nitrogen species (ROS/RNS) generated in the plasma led to complete deactivation of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein occurs within 2 min of CAP treatment.
- The RT-PCR analysis has also established that CAP can deactivate the RNA of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Source: Business Today

## Environment & Ecology

### 29. Scientists discover new eel species from Kerala, Bengal

#### Why in News

- A group of Indian scientists have discovered a **new species of eel** from among specimens collected from the Kalamukku and Digha Mohana fishing harbours in Kerala and West Bengal respectively.



#### Key Points

- The newly discovered eel belongs to the Congrid eels group and has been named *Ariosoma indicum*.
- Scientists from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR), Lucknow and the Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Gopalpur-on-Sea, Odisha, confirmed *Ariosoma indicum* as a new species.
- The total length of the new species is 362 millimetres.
- The *Ariosoma* genus has 7 species, including the newly identified eel that have been documented in Indian waters. Globally, there are 223 species in the genus.

**Note:** The new eel species is not listed as 'Threatened' or 'Endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List.

Source: DTE



## Sports

## 30. India to host Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023

## Why in News

- India will host the Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023.

## Key Points

- Organised 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.
- This event will take place in September ahead of the ICC World Cup.

Source: newsonair



## Awards &amp; Honours

## 31. 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**:





## Weekly Current Affairs

- (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

### 32. 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



## Weekly Current Affairs

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

#### Why in News

- 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".



#### Key Points

##### About the Award:

- Government of India has initiated this award to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts and Organizations of State/Government.
- This scheme emphasises on Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets. The award consists of a trophy, scroll and an incentive of Rs 10 lakhs.

**Note:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation will receive the award on 21<sup>st</sup> April, i.e. Civil Service Day.

##### About UDAN scheme:

- Launched in 2016, UDAN scheme aims to fulfill the aspirations of the common man by following the vision of *UdeDeshkaAamNagrik*, with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and III cities.
- In a short span of 5 years, today 415 UDAN routes connect 66 underserved/unserved airports, including heliports and water aerodromes, and over 92 lakh people have benefited from it.
- More than 1 lakh 79 thousand flights have flown under this scheme.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans and commits to construct 100 new airports by 2024 in India with 1,000 new routes under UDAN RCS scheme by the year 2026.

**Source: PIB**



## Weekly Current Affairs

### Appointments/Resignations

#### 34. Government appoints Lt Gen Manoj C Pande as next Chief of Army Staff

##### Why in News

- Government has appointed Lt Gen Manoj C Pande, presently Vice Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff (29<sup>th</sup>) with effect from April 30, 2022.

##### Key Points

- Manoj C Pande is the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the Chief of Army Staff.
- He will succeed General Manoj Mukund Naravane, who is scheduled to complete his 28 month-tenure on April 30.
- For his illustrious service, Lt Gen Manoj C Pande has been conferred with Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Source: HT



#### 35. India gets elected to four UN ECOSOC bodies

##### Why in News

- India has been elected to four key bodies of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

##### Key Points

- India gets elected to four UN ECOSOC Bodies: Commission for Social Development, Committee on NGOs, Commission on Science & Technology for Development and Ambassador Preeti Saran gets re-elected to Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

**Note:** Earlier in April 2021 also, India got elected to three UN ECOSOC bodies which include, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Executive Board of UN Women, and the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.



**About Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):**

- ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN System established by the UN Charter in 1945.
- It consists of 54 members of the United Nations elected by the General Assembly.

**Source: India Today**

## Obituaries

**36. Legendary Odia musician and singer Prafulla Kar passes away**

- Legendary Odia music composer, singer, writer and lyricist Prafulla Kar passed away at 83.
- He was popular for his numerous songs including 'Kamala Desha Rajakumara'.
- He had received the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2015 and was honoured with the Jayadeva award in 2004. He had received the state film award eight times, six times in a row.

**Source: TOI**

**37. 18-Year-Old Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Player Vishwa Deenadayalan passes away**

- 18-Year-Old Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Player Vishwa Deenadayalan, who was on his way to Shillong to participate in the 83rd Senior National and Inter-State Championships, passed away in a road accident.
- He had won several junior, sub-junior and cadet titles in the country and abroad.

**Source: Indian Express**





### 38. Pakistani humanitarian activist Bilquis Bano Edhi passes away

- Pakistani humanitarian activist **Bilquis Bano Edhi** passed away.
- Bilquis Bano Edhi was a Pakistani professional nurse and one of the most active philanthropists in the country.
- Bilquis worked shoulder to shoulder with her husband in establishing the Abdul Sattar Edhi Foundation, a welfare organisation that gained worldwide fame for its humanitarian work in many areas.
- For her contributions, she was awarded the 1986 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service and the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice in 2015.



Source: Business Today

## Important Days

### 39. 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](https://un.org)

### 40. April 21, National Civil Services Day

#### Why in News



- The **National Civil Services Day** is observed on April 21 every year and is dedicated to India's civil servants for their contribution and hard work in public administration.

### Key Points

- The **theme** for Civil Services Day 2022 is "Vision India@2047 – Bringing Citizens and Government closer".
- The first National Civil Service Day was observed in the year 2006.
- The Government of India chose April 21 as the National Civil Service Day as on this day the country's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers in 1947.
- The historic occasion took place at the Metcalfe House in Delhi.
- Sardar Patel had referred to the civil servants as the "steel frame of India".



## 41. April 18, World Heritage Day

### Why in News

- The International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS), also known as World Heritage Day, is observed on April 18.

### Key Points

- 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.



### India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- The first sites to be inscribed were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, of which all were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- The latest site to be inscribed is Dholavira, Gujarat in 2021.
- As of July 2021, 19 of the 36 States and union territories of India are home to the World Heritage Sites, with Maharashtra having the highest number of sites (5).



## Weekly Current Affairs

- At present, there are 40 World Heritage Sites located in India. Out of these, 32 are cultural, 7 are natural, and 1 is mixed (meeting both cultural and natural criteria), as determined by the organization's selection criteria.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.

### World's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- As of July 2021, a total of 1,154 World Heritage Sites (897 cultural, 218 natural, and 39 mixed properties) exist across 167 countries.
- With 58 selected areas, Italy is the country with the most sites on the list.

Source: Indian Express

### 42. April 17, World Hemophilia Day

#### Why in News

- Every year, April 17 is observed as World Hemophilia Day.

#### Key Points

- The **theme** for World Hemophilia Day 2022 is 'Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress'.
- It is an international awareness day for hemophilia and other bleeding disorders and also marks the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia.

#### About Hemophilia:

- Hemophilia is a disorder that results in excessive bleeding. People who are suffering from severe hemophilia may bleed for no reason.

Source: HT

