

April 2022 Edition

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## CLAT IGNITE- April 2022

### (Monthly Current Affairs Magazine)

#### Dear Aspirant,

- Since you are aware of the competition level in the various law exams, one thing is clear; the examinations are getting tougher and tougher. And in all the sections of various law entrance exams, the current affairs section is very unpredictable, in which aspirants face major hurdles.
- **Current Affairs** is a very important subject that needs to be covered strategically, and this plays a very important role in all the **Law Related UG Exams**. Thus, maintaining a monthly compilation of current affairs is highly recommended.
- It is extremely important to keep a tab on the major news and happenings that affect us socially and politically. One should be aware of the facts and be able to analyze the news, dissect it, and evaluate it from different dimensions while preparing for the CLAT exam.
- With this view, **BYJU'S Exam Prep** has come up with yet another amazing feature that will make your CLAT preparation easier and more streamlined. Presenting the **"CLAT IGNITE" Monthly Current Affairs Magazine**.

#### Features of the CLAT IGNITE, Current Affairs Magazine

- All the important news and views from newspapers that are required for the CLAT and Other Law-Entrance exams.
- It is divided into sections like National News, International Affairs, Science and Technology, Sports, Awards and Honours, etc.
- Each news is analyzed and dissected as per the CLAT exam.
- Magazines are available from July 2021.
- Passage-Based Current Affairs for practice with detailed solutions.
- Important One Liners of the month.
- Available in a convenient PDF format that you can download.

The thorough analysis of our **"CLAT IGNITE MAGAZINE"** and deep study-cum-practice of our **"CLAT IGNITE" Monthly Current Affairs Workbook"** will make you confident enough and exam-battle ready so that no question in the current affairs section of the law entrance exam will trouble you anymore.

*Note: Sources used: TH, HT, IE, SCROLL, MINT, PIB, NOA, DDNEWS & etc.*

**All the Best!!!!**



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# TOP STORY

## 1. AFSPA partially withdrawn from Northeast

The Centre significantly reduced the footprint of the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958** in the Northeast, withdrawing it entirely from **23 districts in Assam**; and partially from **seven districts in Nagaland**, six districts in Manipur, and one district in Assam.

Once the decision is notified in the gazette, **AFSPA remains in force in parts of these three states as well as in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.**



### What is AFSPA?

- It gives powers to the army, **state, and central police forces to shoot to kill, search houses and destroy any property** that is “likely” to be used by insurgents in **areas declared as “disturbed” by the home ministry.**
- **AFSPA is invoked when a case of militancy or insurgency** takes place, and the territorial integrity of India is at risk.

- Security forces can “**arrest a person without a warrant**”, who has committed or is even “**about to commit a cognizable offence**” even based on “**reasonable suspicion**”.
- It also provides **security forces with legal immunity** for their actions in disturbed areas.
- While the armed forces and the government justify its need to **combat militancy and insurgency**, critics have pointed out cases of possible human rights violations linked to the act.

### Key Provisions of the AFSPA Act



The salient features of the AFSPA act are:

- The **Governor of a State and the Central Government are empowered to declare** any part or full of any state as a **disturbed area** if according to their opinion that it has become necessary to **disrupt the terrorist activity** or any such activity that might impinge on the sovereignty of India or cause insult to the **national flag, anthem, or India’s Constitution.**

- **Section (3) of AFSPA** provides that, if the governor of a state issues an official notification in The Gazette of India then the Central government has the authority **to deploy armed forces for assisting the civilian authorities.** Once a region is declared ‘**disturbed**’ then it must **maintain the status quo for a minimum of three months**, as per **The Disturbed Areas Act of 1976.**
- **Section (4) of AFSPA** gives **special powers to army officers** in disturbed areas to shoot (**even if it kills**) any individual who violates the law / or is suspected to violate the **law (this includes assembly of five or more people, carrying of weapons) etc.** The only condition is that the officer must give a **warning before opening fire.**
- **Security forces can arrest anybody even without a warrant** and carry out searches without consent.
- Once a person is taken into custody, he/she must be handed over to the **nearest police station as soon as possible.**
- Prosecution of the officer on duty for alleged violation of human rights requires the **prior permission of the Central Government.**

### WHAT IS ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT?

➤ **Introduced in 1958, AFSPA** confers on members of the armed forces special powers to rein in suspects in areas declared “disturbed” on account of insurgent activities or similar threats. It has been **in force in Manipur since 1980**, and the alleged **excesses committed under it are the reasons why activist from Sharmila has been on a hunger strike since 2000.**

**WHAT ARE SPECIAL POWERS?**  
AFSPA allows any commissioned officer, warrant officer and non-commissioned officer – or any other

person of equivalent rank – to:

- Fire upon or use force against any person acting ‘in contravention of any law for the time being in force in the disturbed area’
- Arrest suspicious people without warrant
- Destroy any structure suspected to house an arms dump, shelter from which armed attacks are made or are likely to be made
- Conduct searches without warrants for evidence, to recover a wrongfully confined person or property or arms or explosives

➤ **AFSPA bars prosecution or proceedings— except with Centre’s nod— against personnel for action committed while exercising powers under the Act**

### Criticism of AFSPA

- **Violates Human Rights:** The act fails to protect and uphold human rights; this can be witnessed in the case of alleged custodial rape and killings of the Thangjam Manorama by the Assam rifles in 2004. The act reinforces a militarized approach to security which has proved to be not only inefficient but, also counterproductive in tackling security challenges.
- **Misuse of Absolute Power:** The absolute authority vested in the armed forces to shoot on sight based on mere suspicion and for an offence as basic as violating an order. The power to shoot on sight violates the fundamental right to life, making the soldier on the ground the judge of the value of different lives and people the mere subjects of an officer's discretion.

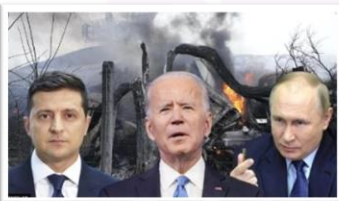
- **Violates Fundamental Rights:** The power of arbitrary arrest and detention given to the armed forces goes against the fundamental right vested in Article 22, which provides safeguards for preventive and punitive detentions. The Supreme Court has clearly stated that the person arrested has to be submitted to the court within 24hrs of the FIR.
- **Immunity against any Punitive Action:** The greatest outrage against AFSPA is due to the immunity given to the armed forces. No prosecution, suit or another legal proceeding shall be instituted except with the previous sanction of the central government. This immunity which protects guards and facilitates the armed forces to take unwarranted decisions at times is clearly questionable.

*Source: Indian Express*

## 2. Designating Russia as a 'State Sponsor of Terrorism'

- **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.
- Biden did not commit to any specific actions but told Zelenskyy that he was "*willing to explore a range of proposals to exert greater pressure on Moscow*".

### Terrorist designation



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:

1. **Restrictions on US foreign assistance**
2. **A ban on defence exports and sales**
3. **Certain controls over exports of dual use items**
4. **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.

1. **Syria (Designated on 29th December 1979)**
2. **Iran (Designated on 19th January 1984),**
3. **North Korea (Designated on 20th November 2017).**
4. **Cuba was re-designated as a state sponsor of terrorism on 12<sup>th</sup> January 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, which prohibits the transfer of most aid;**
- (ii) **Section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), which prohibits exports, credits, guarantees, other financial assistance, and export licensing overseen by the State Department; and**
- (iii) **Section 1754(c) of the Export Controls Act of 2018.**



### India's Stand on Russia - Ukraine Conflict

- **India's position** on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been **steadfast and consistent**.
- Unlike many other leading powers, **India has not yet criticised Russia** for its invasion of Ukraine and **it abstained from the votes at the UN platforms in condemning the Russian aggression**.
- India has been pressing for the **resolution of the crisis through diplomacy and dialogue**.
- **India abstained** on a **US-sponsored United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** resolution that deplores in the **strongest terms Russia's aggression against Ukraine**.

- **India again abstained from voting at the UNSC on the Russia drafted resolution on the Humanitarian situation in Ukraine.**
- **India abstained on a vote at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.**
- India, China and 33 other nations recently abstained from a United Nations General Assembly resolution that censured Russia for its military actions in Ukraine.
- **India also abstained from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution that was related to safety at four nuclear power stations.**

*Source: IndianExpress*

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### 1. President Kovind embarks on 2-nation tour

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** embarked on a two-nation tour to **Turkmenistan** and the **Netherlands**.
- During the first leg of the tour, the President is visiting Turkmenistan.
- This will be the first-ever visit of an **Indian President** to Turkmenistan.
- This visit is significant as it is taking place as India marks 30 years of diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan along with Member of Parliament Dilip Ghosh are also accompanying the President on this tour.
- On the second leg, President Kovind will be on a four-day visit to the **Netherlands**.
- Capital of Turkmenistan: **Ashgabat**



Source: Newsonair

### 2. Tata Power Renewable commissions 300MW solar plant in Gujarat



- **Tata Power Renewables Energy Ltd (TPREL)** has commissioned a **300 MW** project in **Dholera, Gujarat**; it is **India's largest single-axis solar tracker system**.
- The project will **generate 774 million units annually** and **reduce approximately 704340 MT/year of carbon emission**.
- 1320 Acre area has been used for the installation.
- The **renewables capacity in operation for Tata Power is 3,400 MW** -

Solar: 2,468 MW and Wind: 932 MW.

- **Dr. Praveer Sinha, CEO & Managing Director, Tata Power.**

#### About Tata Power:

- One of **India's largest integrated power companies**
- Has an installed/managed capacity of **13,515 MW**.
- The Company had developed the **country's first Ultra Mega Power Project at Mundra (Gujarat)**.

- Tata Power is currently serving more than **12 million consumers via its Discoms**.
- With its **107 years** track record of **technology advancements, project execution excellence, world-class safety processes, customer care, and green initiatives**, Tata Power is well poised for multi-fold growth and is committed to lighting up lives for generations to come.

Source: TataPower

### 3. Bhupender Yadav launched the environment mascot Prakriti

- The **Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** has launched the environment awareness mascot called **Prakriti**.
- Aim: **To spread mass awareness of small changes in lifestyle can bring better environmental sustainability**.
- It also creates awareness about various efforts and initiatives of the ministry to ensure **effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM)** in the country.
- **India's pledge to Single-Use Plastics: 2022**



#### 4. India's first Regional Rapid Transit System to be handed over to NCRTC



- India's first semi-high-speed train set for **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** has been handed over to **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** at Alstom's Savli plant in Gujarat.
- RRTS train sets are being manufactured under **Make In India** initiative and are capable of running at speed of **180 km per hour**.
- It will be brought to **Duhai Depot in Uttar Pradesh**.
- Implementing agency of **India's first RRTS corridor between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut: NCRTC**.

**Ghaziabad-Meerut: NCRTC.**

##### About Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

- RRTS will reduce **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** by taking around **1.5 lakh private vehicles off the road**.
- Planning Commission formed a **Task Force in 2005** to develop a multi modal transit system for **Delhi National Capital Region (NCR)**.

- Task Force identified 8 corridors and prioritised three corridors namely **Delhi-Meerut, Delhi-Panipat and Delhi- Alwar**.
- RRTS is different from conventional Railway as it will **provide reliable, high frequency, point to point regional travel at high speed along dedicated pathway**

#### 5. Kangra Tea is likely to get European Union GI Tag

- Kangra Tea is likely to win the **European Union Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag)**; this tag helps Kangra tea to get an **opportunity to enter the European market**.
- Kangra tea received the **Indian GI tag in 2005**.
- Since 1999, the cultivation and development of tea have improved constantly in the **Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Other GI tags of Himachal Pradesh: Chamba Chappal, Chamba Rumal, Kinnauri Shawl, Kangra paintings, Kullu shawl, Basmati.**



Source: PIB

#### 6. Atal Innovation Mission extended till 2023



- The Union Cabinet, headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has **approved the extension of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) till March 2023**.
- **Aim: Develop 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), 101 Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), set up 50 Atal Community Innovation Centres and sponsor 200 entrepreneurs** through the Atal New India Challenges
- More than **Rs 2000 crore** will be incurred as the total budgetary expenditure.
- **AIM was set up under the NITI Aayog.**

#### 7. The 20<sup>th</sup> NTCA meeting chaired by the Union Minister Bhupender Yadav

- **Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav** has chaired the **20th NTCA** which was held in **Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- This is the **first-ever NTCA meeting that was held outside of the National Capital**.
- In March 2021, the **Air Gun Surrender Abhiyaan** was started in **Arunachal Pradesh**.



- The **NTCA** has prepared the **Forest Fire Audit Protocol for Tiger Reserves**, which was released by **Bhupender Yadav**.

#### About National Tiger Conservation Authority:

- **Statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
- **Established in 2005**
- **Constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- **For strengthening tiger conservation**
- **Project Tiger** is a centrally sponsored scheme of the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
- **India now has as many as 2,967 tigers in the wild**, according to the latest tiger estimation report for **2018**. Population of tigers have increased by **33%** since the last census in **2014**.
- **More than half of the tiger** are in **Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka**.

#### 8. Made in India First flight takes off from Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat



- **First-ever flight of Made in India 17-seater HAL Dornier Do-228** flagged off from **Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The **Centre-run Alliance Air** had signed an agreement with the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** to lease two **17-seater Dornier 228 aircraft**.
- This will be the nation's **first commercial airline** to operate an Indian-made aircraft for civil operations.

- The **Make in India initiative** was launched in **2014** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

#### About Make in India:

- **Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India on September 25, 2014.**
- **To attract foreign investment for new industrialisation**
- **It aims to increase in manufacturing sector growth to 12-14% per annum**
- **Aims to increase the share of manufacturing sector in the country's Gross Domestic Product from 16% to 25% by 2022.**
- **Aims to create 100 million additional jobs by 2022.**
- **Dynamically promote export-led growth.**

*Source: Newsonair*

#### 9. Anurag Thakur inaugurates 40th 'Hunar Haat'

- **Anurag Thakur** (Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports) has inaugurated the **40th edition of the 'Hunar Haat'** in the presence of Union Minority Affairs Minister **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi**.
- The 40th 'Hunar Haat' is a feasible platform to **promote 'Swadeshi' products** in **Mumbai** from **16th to 27th April 2022**.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** is being strengthened by initiatives like **Hunar Haat**.
- In this 40th edition of **Hunar Haat**, more than a thousand craftsmen and artisans coming from **31 states** have put up **400 stalls**.
- **'Tejas'** a skilling programme which has been launched by **Govt. of India**.
- Under this **initiative India will send skilled manpower to UAE**. Within a year, **30,000** skilled job-seekers will be sent to **UAE**.





## 10. PM Modi's 3-day visit to Gujarat



- **PM Modi** has begun his **three-day visit to Gujarat**.
- Prime Minister visited the **Command-and-Control Centre for Schools in Gandhinagar**. This state-of-the-Art Centre has been named as **Vidhya Samiksha Kendra**.
- According to official sources, this Centre collects over **five hundred crore data** sets annually and analyses those meaningfully using **big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning**. This will help to **enhance overall learning outcomes for students in the state**. The Centre also helps in **tracking daily online attendance of teachers and students** and undertakes **centralised summative and periodic assessments of learning outcomes of students**.
- He also laid **the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar** in the presence of **Mauritius PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and DG of WHO Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus**.
- He **dedicated the Banas Community Radio Station**, to provide **farmers key scientific information** related to agriculture and animal husbandry.

Source: Newsonair

## 11. Radio channel for the visually impaired 'Radio Aksh' launched in Nagpur

- **India's first-ever radio channel** for the visually impaired named '**Radio Aksh**' was launched in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**.
- The **Blind Relief Association Nagpur and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal** jointly launched the pioneers of the concept.
- This initiative will help the visually impaired to gain seamless access to **audiobooks and education resources**.
- In the initial phase, the **Radio Aksh has six hours of content** that would be put on repeat mode four times a day.



## 12. Sugar export jumps 65% in last FY corresponding to the previous year



- **Sugar export** in India has witnessed an impressive **growth of 291%** from USD 1,177 million in the financial year 2013-14 to **USD 4,600 million in the last financial year**.
- The sugar export has **jumped 65% in 2021-22** corresponding to the previous year.
- The growth was achieved despite the logistical challenges posed by **COVID-19 pandemic**.

- The country had exported sugar **worth 1,965 million US dollars in 2019-20**, which increased to **2,790 million US dollars in 2020-21**.
- **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka** account for nearly **80 percent of the total sugar production in the country**.
- The other major sugarcane-producing states are **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Haryana, and Punjab**.
- **Notably, India is the world's second-largest sugar producer after Brazil**.

Source: PIB



### 13. BRO to build world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** will build the **world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh.**
- The construction will begin by July this year and be **completed by 2025.**
- The Centre has already made **'Project Yojak'** of BRO to execute this ambitious project.
- Presently, one must travel 101 km from Manali to Darcha and thereafter, take a turn towards **Shinku La Pass and enter Zaskar valley.**
- **BRO DG: Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary**



Source: HT

### 14. India's first pure green hydrogen plant commissioned in Jorhat



- **Oil India Limited (OIL)** has set up **India's first 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen** with an installed capacity of **10 kg per day at 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.** The AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.

- The production of plant will increase from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in the future.
- The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.
- The company has initiated a detailed study in collaboration with **IIT Guwahati** on blending of **Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas** and its effect on the existing infrastructure of OIL. The company also plans to study use cases for **commercial applications of the blended fuel.**

### 15. Palli becomes India's first carbon-neutral panchayat

- **Palli village in Samba district of Jammu** has become the **nation's first panchayat to become carbon neutral, fully powered by solar energy.**
- This project (**500 KW solar plant**) with the help of villagers was completed in a record time of three weeks.
- 1,500 solar panels were placed in a total area of 6,408 sq mt to provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat **under the central government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme.**
- **J&K Governor: Manoj Sinha**



#### Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- Initiated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026 .
- To develop governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions
- RGSA will comprise Central and State components in the ratio of 60:40 among Centre and States respectively



• Focus majorly on: -

- Poverty free and enhanced livelihood in villages
- Healthy Village
- Child Friendly Village
- Water Sufficient Village
- Clean and Green Village
- Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Village
- Socially Secured Village
- Village with Good Governance
- Engendered Development in Village.

## 16. PM Modi inaugurates 7th edition of Raisina Dialogue



- PM Modi has inaugurated the 7th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.
- Chief Guest: Ursula Von Der Leyen (President of the European Commission)
- Several former PMs of different countries and other officials will also participate in the event.

- Theme - TerraNova, impassioned, impatient, imperilled
- There are six broad thematic pillars of the Dialogue which include *Rethinking Democracy, End of Multilateralism, Water Caucuses, and Achieving Green Transitions.*

### About Raisina Dialogue:

- A multilateral conference committed to address the challenges faced by global community.
- It discusses cooperation on a wide range of pertinent international policy matters.
- It involves heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, as well as major private sector executives, members of the media and academics.
- Hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
- The 1st edition was held in 2016.
- Observer Research Foundation is an independent think tank based in New Delhi.

Source: Newsonair

## 17. India to host 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Accountants (WCOA) 2022

- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) will host 21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA) for the first time in 118 years.



- About 6000 top accountants from 130 countries will participate in the programme physically.
- The event will be held from November 18 to 21 after outbidding France.
- The event will be held at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.
- The theme for 2022 would be 'Building Trust Enabling Sustainability'.
- ICAI president: Debashis Mitra





## About Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

- It's a national professional accounting agency of India
- Regulates the profession of Accountancy.
- Only licensing & regulating body of the financial audit and accountancy profession in India
- ICAI is established as a statutory body under Chartered Accountants Act in 1949.
- Recommends the accounting standards to be followed by companies in India to National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards (NACAS).
- Having administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.



Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

Source: ET

## 18. Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair begins

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in alliance with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) is organizing Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair AAHAR 2022 in New Delhi.
- APEDA has also created stalls for exporters from the NorthEast Region, Himalayan states, women entrepreneurs, Start-Ups, and exporters of millets.
- More than 80 exporters will participate in the fair from different segments.



### About APEDA:



- Indian Apex-Export Trade Promotion Active government body.
- It provides the crucial interface between *farmers, storehouses, packers, exporters, surface transport, ports, Railways, Airways*, and all others engaged in export trade to the international market
- Set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 13 February 1986.

- Headquarter: New Delhi
- Chairman: Dr. M. Angamuthu

Source: Newsonair

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1. India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement:

- India and Australia on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022, signed an economic cooperation and trade agreement under which Canberra would provide duty free access in its market for over 95 per cent of Indian goods such as textiles, leather, jewellery, and sports products.
- The ECTA is an interim arrangement and parties will begin negotiations on a full-fledged free trade agreement in the next 75 days and both sides want to deepen the engagement and work towards a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).
- It was inked by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment Dan Tehan in a virtual ceremony, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison.
- According to the government estimates the agreement will help in taking bilateral trade from \$27 billion to \$45-50 billion in the next five years.



**Note:** Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India, while New Delhi is Canberra's 9th largest partner and Bilateral trade in goods and services stood at \$27.5 billion in 2021.

**Source:** Business-standard:

### 2. Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project:

- President Ram Nath Kovind Visited Turkmenistan and discussed several outstanding issues including strengthening bilateral relations with President of Turkmenistan Seder Berdimuhamedov.
- India has restarted the efforts to revive the much-**delayed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline project**. The pipeline was also discussed during state visit to Turkmenistan by Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

#### About TAPI Pipeline:



- Turkmenistan houses the sixth largest gas reserves in the world with close to 19.5 trillion cubic meters of reserves. Its main importer is China, which imports 35 billion cubic metres annually.
- It has been fourteen years since India, Pakistan and Afghanistan had signed a framework agreement to buy natural gas from Turkmenistan in 2008. However, though some part of the pipeline has been constructed, there has been a delay in construction in Afghanistan due to political instability.
- The 1,814-kilometre partially constructed TAPI pipeline, if and when completed, would transport 33 billion cubic metres of natural gas annually from Galkynysh in Turkmenistan to Fazilka in India.
- Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, on the sidelines of the OIC meet a few days back, had a detailed discussion about TAPI with Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.
- The main impediment in the TAPI project is the Asian Development Bank (ADB) pausing the due diligence and processing activities until the Taliban regime is recognised by the UN.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan was held Thursday in Tunxi, situated in China's Anhui province.

- Foreign ministers or representatives of China, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan took part in the conference.
- A joint statement was released at the end of a China-led regional conference on Afghanistan that Turkmenistan will promote the implementation of a stalled gas pipeline that will pass through Afghanistan, Pakistan and culminate in India (TAPI), a move Islamabad has said, in the same declaration, it would support.
- The announcement was part of "The Tunxi Initiative of the Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan on Supporting Economic Reconstruction in and Practical Cooperation with Afghanistan".
- **Four MoUs were also signed during President's Visit:**
  1. MoU between Financial Monitoring Service at the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and Financial Intelligence Unit of India.
  2. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management
  3. Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Culture and Arts for the period 2022-2025.
  4. MoU between Ministry of Sports and Youth Policy of Turkmenistan and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in Youth Matters.

Source: The Print, IE.

### 3. Hungary National Assembly elections:

- **Hungary's authoritarian prime minister, Viktor Orban** has declared victory in parliamentary elections.
- He is a **member of the Fidesz party**. He is **serving as PM since 2010**, and this will be his fourth consecutive term as prime minister.
- He is the country's longest-serving leader since the fall of communism in 1989 and has long been a thorn in the side of the European Union.
- **Hungary joined NATO in 1999 and joined the EU in 2004.**
- Hungary's Capital: Budapest; Currency: Forint

Source: Business-Standard:

### 4. World's biggest electric cruise ship:

- The world's largest electric cruise ship has made its maiden voyage, settling back into port in Yichang in China's central Hubei province after cruising up and down the Yangtze River.
- It is powered by a massive 7,500 kilowatt-hour marine battery from the world's No. 1 battery manufacturer for electric cars, Contemporary Amperex Technology.
- The ship will go into commercial operations from next month, being used mainly for sightseeing trips. It can travel for around 100 kilometers on a single charge, saving around 530 metric tons of fuel.

### 5. Russia Suspended from the U.N. Human Rights Council:

- The **United Nations General Assembly** on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 **suspended Russia from the U.N. Human Rights Council** over reports of gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights in Ukraine.
- The resolution titled '**Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council**' was adopted with 93 votes in favor, 24 against and 58 abstentions, including India.
- Russia, China, Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Vietnam, were among those who voted against.







- Since January this year, India has abstained on procedural votes and draft resolutions in the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council that disapproved of Russian aggression against Ukraine.
- Russia's deputy U.N. Ambassador Gennady Kuzmin described the move as an "illegitimate and politically motivated step" and then announced that Russia had decided to quit the Human Rights Council altogether.

**Note:** Russia has become the second country after Libya to get suspended from human rights body. Libya was suspended in 2011 because of violence against protesters by forces loyal to then-leader Muammar Gaddafi.

#### About U.N Human Rights Council: (UNHRC)

- The Human Rights Council consists of 47 Member States, elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the UNGA members. It is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
- The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251. It replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR, herein CHR).
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; President: Federico Villegas from Argentina.

**Source: UN.org**

#### 6. UN Net-Zero Emissions expert group:

- The High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities was constituted on March 31 to bolster action against stemming global warming.
- The 16-member group will be led by Catherine McKenna, former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water has been appointed as a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres. Mr. Ghosh is among three Asians serving on the expert group.
- The Group is expected to draw up an action plan and recommend actions to businesses and non-State actors to accelerate the transition to net-zero, or when carbon emitted by human sources is compensated by sucking carbon out of the atmosphere.
- Currently many countries have committed to a year by which they would be net-zero.
- India, for instance, has a 2070 target and the U.S. has committed to a 2050 date.

**Note:** Dr Ian Fry has been appointed as the world's first expert on climate change and human rights for three years by UN Human Rights Council. He has negotiated on behalf of least developed countries including at the 2015 Paris climate conference where he helped ensure that human rights were part of the final package.

UNHRC has created the new Special Rapporteur for climate change and human rights position in October 2021.

**Source: The Hindu**

#### 7. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:

- Madagascar has joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- It has become the 30th country to join the partnership. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.
- By becoming a member of CDRI, Madagascar will be able to work together with other member countries to promote resilient infrastructure and help in creating a safe, resilient and sustainable future globally.

- It claims to promote the rapid development of resilient infrastructure to respond to the Sustainable Development Goals' imperatives of expanding universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and decent work.
- As of April 2022, 30 members, consisting of 23 national governments and 7 organizations have joined CDRI. It is the second major coalition launched by India outside of the UN, the first being the International Solar Alliance. **Interim HQ: New Delhi**

#### **Member Organizations:**

- ADB, World Bank, UNDP, UNDRR
- ARISE - The Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies
- CCRI - Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment
- European Union

#### **Some other Important Climate News:**

1. Maharashtra's capital city Mumbai has announced a detailed plan to zero out carbon emissions by 2050 which puts it two decades ahead of India's national goal and makes it the first city in South Asia to set such a timeline
2. As per the IPCC Report, Global emissions can be halved by 2030 with major transitions in the energy sector, including a substantial reduction in fossil fuel use highlighting that mitigation action needs to be taken now to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
3. According to an overview report India intends to grow plantations over 4,68,222 sq km, an area larger than the entire state of Rajasthan, by 2027 in 13 major river basins to meet its international commitment to sequester carbon emissions.
4. The 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on 15 March stating that the bicycle was a tool for combatting climate change. The Resolution was proposed by Turkmenistan.
5. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched 'Prakriti', a mascot to spread greater awareness among the masses about the small changes that can be sustainably adopted in our lifestyle for a better environment.
6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced India's pledge to phase out single use plastics by 2022. The Environment Ministry has already announced that all single use plastics would be banned from July 1, 2022.
7. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM) jointly announced the \$2.2 million grant in climate action for 22 local innovators across 19 countries, including India.

#### **8. Australia, UK, US Alliance to Develop Hypersonic Missiles:**

- The United States, United Kingdom, and Australia have announced that they will work together via the recently created security alliance known as AUKUS to develop hypersonic missiles.
- U.S. President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the plan after holding a check-in on the progress of AUKUS, the Indo-Pacific alliance that was launched by the three countries in September.
- The U.S., Russia, and China have all looked to further develop hypersonic missiles — a system so fast that it cannot be intercepted by any current missile defense system.

**Note:** The Joe Biden administration, on September 15, announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the U.K., and the U.S. (AUKUS). As part of this, Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines with help from the U.K. and the U.S

### Recent in News:

1. The US successfully tested a hypersonic missile in mid-March. The Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept (HAWC) was launched from a B-52 bomber off the west coast in the first successful test of the Lockheed Martin version of the system.
2. The test came days after Russia says it used its own hypersonic missile Kinzhal or Dagger, ballistic missile during its invasion of Ukraine, claiming it targeted an ammunition warehouse in western Ukraine. According to Russian officials the Kinzhal can hit a target up to 2,000km (1,240 miles) away and can fly faster than 6,000 km/h.

#### Russia reports use of hypersonic missile

##### Kinzhal missile (Kh-47M2)

Highly manoeuvrable, air-launched ballistic missile fired from MiG-31 - hypersonic means can fly 5x speed of sound (Mach 5)



**Type:** Conventional or nuclear-capable  
**Range:** 2000km approx  
**Missile length:** 8m  
**Speed:** Possibly to Mach 10 (12,350 kmh or 7,674 mph)

Source: CSIS, BBC research Image: Planetpix/Alamy Live News



**Source:** CNNnews.com

## 9. India-Nepal Relations:

Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba arrived in India on 1<sup>st</sup> April for his three-day visit. It was his first such visit abroad after assuming office in July 2021.

### Key highlights of the visit:

1. Nepal PM Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba said that he discussed the boundary issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged him to resolve it through bilateral mechanism. India said the general understanding was to address it responsibly and avoid politicisation.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba virtually inaugurated the **Jaynagar-Kurtha railway service** between India and Nepal. The service will criss-cross from Jayanagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Janakpur, Nepal.
  - The railway track of the section is 35 kilometres long and it is the first section of the rail line between the two countries. The section was completed last year at ₹619 crore.
  - The Jaynagar-Kurtha section is part of the 68.7km Jayanagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link. The link was built under the Modi government's grant assistance of NPR 8.77 billion.
  - The MEA said that as part of India's 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, India will inaugurate 75 development projects in Nepal this year.
  - Both countries agreed to speed up the Pancheswar hydroelectric project on their border in west Nepal. Both sides finalised four pacts to expand ties in areas such as railways, and energy.
1. Nepal joining the International Solar Alliance (105th Member Country)
2. MoU on enhancing Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector
3. Agreement on Supply of Petroleum Products between IOC and NOC and
4. Agreement for sharing of Technical Expertise between IOC and NOC.
  - PM Modi and Deuba also launched India's RuPay card in Nepal. The domestic variant of the RuPay card will now work at 1,400 point-of-sale machines in Nepal, and the move is expected to facilitate bilateral tourist flows. Nepal is the fourth country, after Bhutan, Singapore, and the UAE, where RuPay is live.

**Note:** Vinay Mohan Kwatra, the ambassador to Nepal, has been appointed the new foreign secretary of India.

**Source:** HT





### 10. First black woman US Supreme Court Judge:

- The United States of America (USA) Senate has confirmed **Ketanji Brown Jackson** as the **first black woman in US Supreme Court**.
- The US Senate has voted 53 to 47 to confirm her appointment. Jackson is the **third black judge** after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and the sixth woman.
- She is the second-youngest member of the court after Judge Barrett, 50. Kamala Harris is also the first Black woman Vice-President in the USA.

### 11. Kamala Harris's defence advisor:

- Indian American Navy veteran Shanti Sethi has been appointed as USA Vice President Kamala Harris's Defence Adviser.
- Shanti Sethi is the first Indian American commander of a major US Navy combat ship.
- Shanti Sethi commanded the guided-missile destroyer, USS Decatur, from December 2010 to May 2012.

### 12. World Health Day 2022:

- It is celebrated each year on 7<sup>th</sup> April and draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world.
- The date of 7 April marks the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948.
- **Theme: 2022: Our Planet, Our Health**
- WHO estimates that more than 13 million deaths around the world each year are due to avoidable environmental causes. This includes the climate crisis which is the single biggest health threat facing humanity. The climate crisis is also a health crisis.
- **World Health Day is one of 11 official global health campaigns marked by WHO**, along with:

World Health Day: 7 <sup>th</sup> April	World Blood Donor Day: June 14
World Immunization Week: 24 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> April	World Tuberculosis Day: 24 <sup>th</sup> March
World No Tobacco Day: 31 <sup>st</sup> May	World Malaria Day: 25 <sup>th</sup> April
World Hepatitis Day: 28 <sup>th</sup> July	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week: 18-24 November
World Patient Safety Day: 17 <sup>th</sup> September	World Chagas Disease Day: 14 April

**Note:** Health is well placed in the SDGs. The **health goal (SDG 3)** is broad: 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'.

Various Initiatives by the Union Government of India to provide Affordable, Accessible, and Quality Healthcare for All:

**1. Ayushman Bharat:** India launched Ayushman Bharat one of the most ambitious health missions ever to expand universal health coverage especially in rural and vulnerable population. With Four Pillars:

- I. Ayushman Bharat Jan Aarogya Yojana
- II. Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs)
- III. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- IV. PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

**2. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanAushadhi Pariyojana**

**3. Mission Indradhanush**

**4. eSanjeevani (National Telemedicine Service)**

**5. TB Mukht Bharat by 2025 and etc.**



### 13. Shehbaz Sharif Elected as New Pakistan Prime Minister:

- Pakistan Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif, the 70-year-old younger brother of former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- Shehbaz, 70, was the only candidate left in the race after former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi announced that his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party will boycott the voting and staged a walkout.
- Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan was deposed by a no confidence vote in parliament. The no-confidence motion required 172 votes in the 342-seat parliament to pass which was supported by 174 politicians.



**Note:** No Pakistani prime minister has ever completed a five-year term in office in the country's 75-year history National Assembly of Pakistan: It is the lower legislative house of the bicameral Majlis-e-Shura, which also comprises the Senate of Pakistan (upper house). It is a democratically elected body consisting of a total of 342 members who are referred to as Members of the National Assembly (MNAs).

Out of 342 members, 272 members are directly elected members and 70 reserved seats for women and religious minorities.

### 14. India-U. S 2+2 Dialogue:

- The fourth '2+2' dialogue between India and the United States was held in Washington DC. India's External Affairs and Defence Ministers, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, met their American counterparts, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden met virtually on April 11, ahead of the 2+2 dialogue.
- The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific in which the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states are respected, and countries are free from military, economic, and political coercion.
- The United States conveyed its full support to India's upcoming G20 Presidency from December 2022 to November 2023.
- The United States welcomed India's announcement at COP26 to intensify its climate action including its long-term vision to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. Both sides looked forward to further cooperation to support negotiations on ocean plastic pollution launched by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) in February 2022.
- India welcomed the United States' signing of the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

#### What is a 2+2 Dialogue?

- 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. It enables the partners to better understand and appreciate each other's strategic concerns and sensitivities considering political factors on both sides.
- 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.
- The First India-US 2+2 dialogue was held in the year 2018.
- The inaugural 2+2 dialogue with Australia was held in September 2021.
- India held its first 2+2 dialogue with Russia in December 2021.
- The first India-Japan talks in the 2+2 format were held in 2019 in New Delhi.

Source: IE

### 15. Singapore International Water Week 2022:

- Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2022 returns as a physical event from 17 to 21 April at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.
- It is one of the leading international water events in Asia.
- SIWW brings thought leaders, experts and practitioners from governments, utilities, academia, and industry together to share and co-create innovative solutions to meet with pressing urban water challenges globally.
- The event is organised by PUB, Singapore's national water agency.
- SIWW2022 Water Convention will address current and emerging water challenges under the following themes:
  1. Theme 1: Delivering Water from Source to Tap (Network)
  2. Theme 2: Delivering Water from Source to Tap (Treatment)
  3. Theme 3: Effective and Efficient Wastewater Management
  4. Theme 4: Cities of the Future
  5. Theme 5: Water Quality and Health
  6. Theme 6: Nexus and Circularity
- Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Shri G. Ashok Kumar participated virtually in Singapore International Water Week, Water Convention 2022 and gave a presentation on 'Status of Wastewater Generation, Treatment and Management in India: Success Through NMCG Initiatives.'

Source: [lwa-network.org](http://lwa-network.org)

### 16. FDA authorizes first breath test for Covid-19 infection:

- The **Food and Drug Administration** of the United States of America (USA) has **authorized the first device named InspectIR COVID-19 Breathalyzer to detect COVID-19 in breath samples.**
- The device was **91.2% accurate at identifying positive test samples** and **99.3% accurate at identifying negative test samples.**
- The test can provide results in less than three minutes and the test must be done under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

### 17. Bangla New Year Pohela Boishakh:

- The **Bangla new year named Pohela Boishakh** was celebrated across Bangladesh **on April 14, 2022**, with enthusiasm and festivity. This festival is **also known as Bangla Noboborsho.**
- Pohela Boishakh marks the first day of the initial month of Baishakh of the Bengali solar calendar.
- Pohela Boishakh celebrates with other regional festivals like **Puthandu in Tamil Nadu, Baisakhi in Punjab, Vishu in Kerala, and Bihu in Assam.**

### 18. Earth Day 2022

- Earth Day is celebrated annually on 22 April. The Earth Day 2022 theme is 'Invest In Our Planet'.

#### What is Earth Day?

- Earth Day is celebrated since 1970. It was first observed in the United States, when people took to the streets to protest the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, which killed thousands of sea birds, dolphins, seals, and sea lions.
- Earth Day celebrations have played an important role in raising awareness around environmental issues ever since. United Nations designated April 22 as International Mother Earth Day in 2009.



**UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: (2021-30):** The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems and restore them to achieve global goals.

**Note:** Citing the latest assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Earth Day 2022, **social media giant Twitter has announced that it will prohibit misleading advertisements on climate change.**

- The IPCC's assessment reports are the most comprehensive and widely accepted scientific evaluations of the state of the Earth's climate.
- According to the recent most IPCC (6<sup>th</sup>) report, it is only possible to avoid warming of 1.5 °C or 2 °C if massive and immediate cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are made.
- In 2019, Twitter shared plans to achieve 100 percent carbon-neutral power sourcing in their data centers by the end of 2022.

Source: IE

### 19. World Malaria Day 2022:

- WHO celebrates World Malaria Day each year on **25 April** to underscore the collective energy and commitment of the global malaria community in uniting around the common goal of a world free of malaria.
- **Theme 2022: Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives.**
- Since 2000, malaria cases in the Western Pacific Region have been reduced 39% from 2.8 million to 1.7 million cases.
- The six countries of the Greater Mekong subregion, including Cambodia, China (Yunnan Province), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam continue to make progress in eliminating malaria, reporting a 97% reduction in malaria between 2000 to 2020.
- **China has reported zero indigenous malaria cases since 2017 and was certified malaria-free by WHO in 2021.**
- ❑ **Malaria disease is caused by a plasmodium parasite, transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes.**
- The severity of malaria varies based on the species of plasmodium. Usually, people get malaria by being bitten by an infective female Anopheles mosquito. Only Anopheles mosquitoes can transmit malaria and they must have been infected through a previous blood meal taken from an infected person.
- India has made remarkable progress in its fight against malaria. 124 districts have reported zero malaria cases.
- The National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030 outlines India's strategy for elimination of the disease by 2030. The framework has been developed with a vision to eliminate malaria from the country and contribute to improved health and quality of life and alleviation of poverty.

### 20. Russia Withdraws and Suspended from United Nations World Tourism Organisation

- **Russia announced on Wednesday (27<sup>th</sup> April) said that it has decided to withdraw from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation ahead of the scheduled vote on their suspension.**
- The UNWTO announced in March that it wanted to suspend Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.
- The UNWTO said the vote will go ahead even though Russia has said it is withdrawing from the body to give member states their say.
- The decision must be approved by two-thirds of its **159 member states** at a two-day extraordinary general assembly which got underway in Madrid on Wednesday.



- On the same day Russian Federation was suspended from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), losing with immediate effect its rights and privileges as part of the United Nations specialized agency.
- **The Assembly voted in favor of suspension, far exceeding the two-third majority required.**
- Effective immediately, the Russian Federation will not be able to exercise the rights or enjoy the privileges of UNWTO membership.
- This means it will not be able to receive services from the Organization, including Technical Assistance, nor will the Russian Federation be able to participate in any UNWTO meetings or events, be permitted to put forward any candidates to serve on UNWTO's statutory bodies, or to vote in elections to UNWTO organs or to propose a candidate to serve as Secretary-General.

#### About UN World Tourism Organisation:

- It is the United Nations specialized agency entrusted with the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- HQ: Madrid, Spain
- Founded: 1975
- It is the leading international organization for the promotion of tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability.

#### 21. U.N. agrees to scrutinize Security Council Vetos:

- The **193 member states of the United Nations General Assembly** have adopted a resolution requiring the five permanent members of the council to justify their use of their veto power.
- The resolution was passed on 26<sup>th</sup> April by consensus.
- **It was put forward by Liechtenstein's U.N. ambassador Christian Wenaweser on behalf of 83 cosponsors.**
- **The resolution goes into effect immediately and will trigger a General Assembly within 10 days of a veto being used**, allowing member states to scrutinize its use and for the nation that employed it to explain why.
- The passing of the resolution follows Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its use of its veto power to strike down a Security Council measure condemning its aggression.
- **Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States** wield the power to veto Security Council resolutions, a power enshrined in the U.N. Charter in accordance with the five nations having played a key role in the governmental body's founding.

#### 22. Russia cuts off natural gas to 2 NATO nations

- Russia's state energy giant Gazprom has cut off natural gas to two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries- Poland and Bulgaria. Both NATO countries are now receiving gas from their EU neighbours.
- The decision was taken because both countries, which are part of the European Union (EU), refused to pay in Rubles (Russian currency).
- In March, Russian President Vladimir Putin had announced that his government will no longer accept payments in currencies other than the Ruble in retaliation for the sanctions imposed by Western countries against Moscow over its offensive on Ukraine.
- The Kremlin warned on 27<sup>th</sup> April that natural gas will be cut off to other countries as well if they do not agree to the payment agreement.



- Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, called Gazprom's decision of gas cuts in Poland and Bulgaria 'blackmail'.
- Western leaders and analysts portrayed the move by Russia as a bid to divide the Western allies and undermine their unity in support of Ukraine.

**Note:** Recently Baltic countries, comprising Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, have said they are no longer importing Russian gas and oil. Lithuania's energy minister Dainius Kreivys said that the country has become the first in the European Union (EU) to break its dependence on Moscow's gas and oil.

**Source:** HT

### 23. Raisina Dialogue:

- The **7th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue** was inaugurated on 25 April.
- It was held in an in-person format over three days, 25-27 April 2022. Last year, the Dialogue was held in a virtual format due to exceptional circumstances necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- This year, the Dialogue is being held in an 'in-person' format. The organizers have taken all necessary measures to adhere to Covid-19 health protocols to ensure safe conduct of the Dialogue.
- Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Dialogue on 25 April. President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, joined the Inaugural Session as Chief Guest.
- **Theme 2022: "Terra Nova: Impassioned, Impatient, and Imperilled"**.

**Raisina Dialogue:** It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, held annually since 2016. It is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

- The name "Raisina Dialogue" comes from Raisina Hill, an elevation in New Delhi, seat of the Government of India, as well as the Presidential Palace of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- It is designed on the lines of Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.
- This year, Raisina Dialogue side-events were hosted in Berlin and Washington D.C. The Raisina Young Fellows programme was also conducted on the sidelines of the main conference.

- **Some key speakers include:**

President of United Nations General Assembly: Abdullah Shahid

Chief of Indian Navy: R Hari Kumar

Chief of the Defence Staff, United Kingdom: Admiral Tony Radakin

CEO, NITI Aayog, India: Amitabh Kant

**Source:** Mea.gov.in





## STATE NEWS

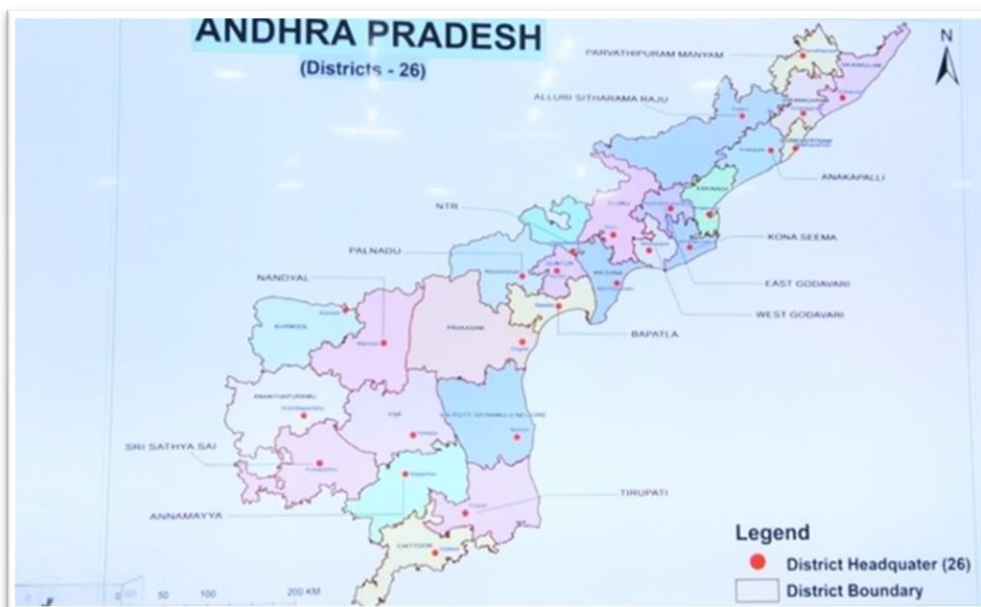
### 1. Hobby Hubs scheme launched by Delhi government

- The **Delhi government** has set up **Hobby Hubs** for **government schools in Delhi** after school hours to promote **extra-curricular activities**.
- Aim: **Optimum use of school infrastructure and promote these extra-curricular activities**.
- This project will implement in the **single shift government school**.
- **Categories of activities: Dance, music, technical, literary and others such as yoga, garment work, photography, and radio jockey.**
- **Delhi Education Minister: Manish Sisodia**
- **Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejariwal**
- **Governor: Shri Anil Baijal**

### 2. Andhra Pradesh set up 'She Auto' stands for women's safety

- The **Chittoor police in Andhra Pradesh** has set up **three 'She Auto' stands in Tirupati**; autos run by **female drivers**
- Three **'She Auto'** stands have been set up in **RTC Bus Stand, Mahila University, and Ruia Hospital**.
- **Aim: Women and girls student's safety**
- **Capital of Andhra Pradesh: Amaravati**
- **Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan**
- **Chief Minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**
- **World Heritage Site Tentative List: Sri Veerabhadra temple (Lepakshi).**

### Andhra Pradesh CM inaugurated 13 new districts



- **Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has **launched 13 new districts** in the state, and now the **total number of districts is 26**.



- Aim: **Better administration and transparency, create a smooth and effective delivery mechanism for welfare schemes.**
- New Districts: **Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, Eluru, NTR, Palanadu, Bapatla, Nandyala, Sri Satya Sai, Annamayya and Tirupati.**
- **Each district in Andhra Pradesh had on an average 38.15 lakh residents, and the creation of the new districts has brought down the average to about 19.07 lakh people.**

*Source: IndianExpress*

### 3. Karnataka sets up Cooperative Bank for Dairy Industry

- **Karnataka government** has set up **Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank** which will provide greater **financial strength** for the **milk producers.**
- Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah has released the logo Cooperative Bank.
- **Capital of proposed cooperative bank: Rs. 360 crores** (State government: Rs.100 cr and the Milk Federation and Cooperatives contributing Rs. 260 crores)
- **Karnataka CM: Basavaraj Bommai,**
- **Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot**



### 4. Tamil Nadu CM announces breakfast scheme for primary school students



- **Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin** has announced that all government **primary school students from 1st to 5th standards** will be **provided nutritious breakfast on all working days.**
- **Tamil Nadu is set to become the first state to offer breakfast along with midday meals.**
- This includes the launch of integrated urban health centres within the Corporation and Municipal limits.

- Earlier, he also announced schools with modern facilities will be established.
- **Periodic medical check-ups of school children and the follow-up treatment** for those who need medical attention is another scheme that he announced.
- To meet the unmet **basic needs of the public**, he said in all **the 234 constituencies**, a new scheme called **“CM in your constituency”** will be rolled out, which will be implemented in coordination with the MLAs concerned.

### 5. Madhya Pradesh Champion of Change Award 2021

- **Governor Mangubhai Patel** honoured chief minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** with the **Champions of Change Award.**
- CM Chouhan said the state had become proud by honouring the talents who brought laurels to different areas of the society.
- The actress **Divyanka Tripathi** has been honoured with **Madhya Pradesh Champion Of Change Award 2021** for her phenomenal work as an artist.
- The event was organized by the **Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE)** at Kushabhau Thackeray auditorium in Bhopal.



**Other awardees:**

- **Former Governor of UP and Mizoram: Dr Aziz Qureshi**
- **Music performer: Padma Vibhushan Teejan Bai**
- **Mayor of Indore: Malini Laxmansingh Gaur**

*Source: Freepressjournal*

## 6. Tamil Nadu observes Ambedkar birth anniversary 'Equality Day'



- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin** announced the **birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar on April 14** would be observed as **'Equality Day'** from this year onwards.
- Some selected works of Ambedkar would be published in Tamil (critical edition).
- The government also informed that swift action taken on any representation aimed at the growth of all the Tamils.
- The **DMK government** already declared **Periyar's birth anniversary on September 17** as social justice day.
- **Governor: R. N. Ravi**
- **Capital: Chennai**

## 7. PM unveils 108 feet tall statue of Lord Hanuman at Morbi in Gujarat

- PM Narendra Modi has unveiled **108-feet statue of Lord Hanuman in Morbi, Gujarat** on Hanuman Jayanti.
- The statue is the second of the four statues being set up in the four directions across the country, as part of **'Hanumanji Char dham project'**.
- First statue of this series was set up at the Jakhu hills in the north in **Shimla in 2010** and has been **sculpted by a Rajasthan sculptor**.
- The work on the statue in the south at **Rameswaram** has been started.
- In February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated a **216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya** here and highlighted the 11th century saint's message of equality of all.
- The **'Statue of Equality'** commemorates **Ramanujacharya** who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living, including faith, caste and creed.



## 8. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 33 NH projects in Raipur, Chhattisgarh



- **Nitin Gadkari** (Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways) has **inaugurated** and laid the foundation stone of **33 National Highway projects in Raipur, Chhattisgarh worth Rs 9,240 crore**.
- These road projects will **ease the connectivity** of Chhattisgarh with the states of Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- The road network **connects the backward areas with the developed areas** of the state and cultural and tourist places.





## 9. Churu & Bishnupur districts honoured with PM Public Administration awards

- **PM Modi** has conferred the prestigious **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2021** to the **Churu (Rajasthan)**, and **Bishnupur (Manipur)** for **Best Performance** in the implementation of **Promoting excellence in sports and wellness** through the **Khelo India Scheme**.
- The award ceremony was held on the **15th Civil Services Day (April 21, 2022)** function in New Delhi.
- **Khelo India University Games 2022: Bengaluru**.
- **Mascot: Veera**



### Civil Services Day: 21st April

- To commemorate the day when the **first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** addressed the probationers of **Administrative Services Officers in 1947** at **Metcalf House, Delhi**.
- He mentioned civil servants as the **'Steel Frame of India'**.
- **First civil services day** was held in **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in 2006**.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** was born on **31st October 1875** in **Nadiad, Gujarat**.
- **National Unity Day** is celebrated every year to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. He was the **first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister** of independent India.

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### 1. IAF celebrating 60 years of service by Chetak Helicopter

- **Indian Air Force** has commemorated **60 Glorious years of service by Chetak Helicopter** at Indian Air Force at Air Force Station, Hakimpet.
- The event was inaugurated by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**.
- The Chetak helicopter is the oldest machine, **made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** under the licence agreement.
- **Chetak Helicopter inducted: 1962**
- **IAF Day: 8 October**
- **Chief of the Air Staff: Vivek Ram Chaudhari**
- **Defence budget 2021-22: INR 5.25 lakh crores (USD 70.6 billion).**



*Source: PIB*

### 2. DRDO successfully flight-tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet technology



- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has tested the **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in Odisha successfully.
- The SFDR has been **developed in collaboration** with **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, Hyderabad and **other DRDO laboratories** such as Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.

- **High Projected range: 350 km**
- **Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy**

### 3. China successfully launched satellite for Earth observation

- **China** has successfully launched, '**Gaofen-3 03**' a **new Earth observation satellite** from **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre** by a **Long March-4C rocket**.
- This will become part of its **land-sea radar satellite constellation**.
- It will also capture images to help China safeguard its maritime rights.
- These **Earth Observation satellites** have produced many SAR images on daily basis.
- **Other satellites that already orbiting: Gaofen-3 and Gaofen-3 02.**



*Source: NewIndianExpress*

### 4. India test-fires Pinaka missile system successfully



- **DRDO and Indian Army** have successfully **flight-tested** a new version of the **Pinaka rocket system** at the **Pokhran firing ranges**.
- A total number of 24 Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket Systems (EPRS) have been fired for different ranges and weapons.
- The Pinaka rocket system has been **developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune**.

- It is supported by the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, a Pune-based laboratory of DRDO.



### 5. Indian Coast Guard commissions advanced light helicopter MK III squadron

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has **commissioned** the latest **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) MK-III squadron** in **Bhubaneswar** in **Odisha**.
- ALH was commissioned in the presence of **Indian Coast Guard chief Virender Singh Pathania**.
- It will enhance maritime security capabilities of force along with **West Bengal and Odisha Coast** and beyond.
- It was **manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** under the **'Make in India'** initiative.



### 6. Anti-Tank Guided Missile Helina flight-tested successfully



- India has successfully flight-tested **anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) Helina** in **Pokhran, Rajasthan**.
- **HELINA (Helicopter-based NAG)** is a third generation **'fire and forget'** class which is developed by the **Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), DRDO**.
- The flight test was conducted by **DRDO, the Army, and the Air Force**.
- The missile was launched from an indigenously developed **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)** at a high-altitude range.
- **Maximum range: 7 KM**

### 7. Israel successfully tested new laser missile defense system

- **Israel** has successfully tested a **new laser missile-defence system** named **'Iron Beam'**.
- It can intercept many kinds of aerial objects ranging from **missiles, rockets, anti-tank missiles and even drones**.
- Developed by: **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems**.
- It is using directed-energy weapon system and can go a long way in providing aerial defense.
- It is the **world's first energy-based weapons system** that uses laser to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets & mortars at **\$3.50 per shot**.
- Israel said its world-famous **Iron Dome defense system** has been a great success, with a **90% interception rate against incoming rocket fire**.



### 8. IAF successfully test-fires BrahMos missile from Su30-MkI fighter jet



- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has **successfully** conducted a **test-fire** of the live firing of **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a **Su30- MKI fighter aircraft**.
- The missile **hit a decommissioned Indian Navy ship** under close coordination with the Indian Navy.
- The **BrahMos can be fired from submarines, ships, fighter jets and land**.
- In 2016, the government decided to integrate the **Brahmos into over 40 Sukhoi fighter jets**.
- Chief of the Air Staff: **Vivek Ram Chaudhari**

#### About BRAHMOS Missile

- Joint venture between the **Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO)** and the **NPOM of Russia**.
- Named on the rivers **Brahmaputra and Moskva**.
- **Air to surface missile with a flight range of around 300 km.**
- Operates on the **"Fire and Forgets"** principle.
- One of the **fastest cruise missile**, operationally deployed with speed of **Mach 2.8**.

Source: TOI





## 9. Shanti Sethi appointed Kamala Harris's defence advisor

- **Indian-American Navy** veteran **Shanti Sethi** has been appointed as **USA Vice President Kamala Harris's Defence Adviser**.
- **Shanti Sethi** is the **first Indian-American commander** of a major **US Navy combat ship**.
- **Shanti Sethi** commanded the **guided-missile destroyer, USS Decatur**, from December 2010 to May 2012.
- **She joined the Navy in 1993**.
- Recently, US Senate has confirmed the appointment of **Ketanji Brown Jackson** (the first Black woman) to **Supreme Court Judge**.



## 10. India launches sixth Scorpene-class submarine 'INS Vagsheer' in Mumbai



- **Vagsheer (sixth submarine, Yard 11880)** of the **P75 project** of the Indian Navy was **launched at Mazgaon Dock Ltd**.
- This is the last of the **Scorpene class submarines** made under the P75 project and can join the Navy fleet after sea trials.
- **Designed by:** French naval defence and energy company DCNS

- **Manufacturer:** Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai
- **Submarines:** INS Kalvari (2017), INS Khanderi (2019), INS Karanj (March 2021), INS Vela (November 2021), INS Vagir (November 2020, sea trial).

### Scorpene Submarine: All you need to know

- The state-of-the-art technology utilised for construction of the Scorpene class submarines has ensured superior stealth features such as advanced acoustic silencing techniques, low radiated noise levels, hydrodynamically optimized shape and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons.

- Scorpene submarines can undertake multifarious types of missions i.e anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, area surveillance etc.
- INS Kalvari was the first Scorpene class submarine that commissioned into the Indian Navy in the year 2017.

*Source: Livemint*

## 11. Russia successfully test-fired Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile

- **Russia has successfully test-fired a Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile** from a silo at the Plesetsk state test cosmodrome in northwest Russia's Arkhangelsk region.
- The training warheads have reached a given area at the Kura test ground on the Kamchatka Peninsula and the tasks were completed in full.
- This missile system has the **highest tactical and technical characteristics** and can overcome all modern means of **anti-missile defense**.



### Sarmat:

- **RS-28 Sarmat (NATO name Satan-II)** is reported to be able to carry **ten or more warheads**.
- Has the capability of firing over either of the earth's poles with a range of **11,000 to 18,000 km**.
- First Russian missile which can carry **smaller hypersonic boost-glide vehicles**.
- Pose a significant challenge to the **ground-and-satellite-based radar tracking systems**.





## SPORTS NEWS

### 1. Dwayne Bravo becomes highest wicket-taker in IPL history

- **Chennai Super Kings, Dwayne Bravo (171) overtook Lasith Malinga (170) to become the highest wicket-taker in IPL History.**
- He made a record against the match of **Lucknow Super Giants in Mumbai.**
- Bravo has taken **171 wickets in 153 IPL matches.**
- **Malinga had taken 170 wickets in 122 matches** for the Mumbai Indians.
- No. of teams in TATA IPL 2022: **10**



#### About IPL:

- The league was founded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in 2007.
- **Current champion:** Chennai Super Kings (2021) (4<sup>th</sup> title)
- **Most successful Team:-** Mumbai Indians (5 titles)
- **Most runs:** Virat Kohli (6284)
- **Most wickets:** Dwayne Bravo (183) (at present)

### 2. Australia clinched ICC Women's World Cup 2022 title



- **Australia has lifted the title of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022** after **beating England** by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- Australia had set the target of 357; the England team were all out for 285 in 43.4 overs.
- Most Successful champion: **Australian (7th)**

- **Player of the Match 2022: Alyssa Healy**
- **Player of the tournament 2022: Alyssa Healy**
- Most runs (All time): **Debbie Hockley (1,505), New Zealand**
- Most wickets (All time): **Jhulan Goswami (45), India**

### 3. Qatar FIFA 2022 unveiled La'eeb as a mascot

- **Qatar FIFA 2022** has unveiled an **official mascot** for the FIFA World Cup 2022, **La'eeb**; this is the **first FIFA in the Middle East and the Arab world.**
- **La'eeb** is an Arabic word that **means super-skilled player.**
- **BYJU'S** become the **first Indian sponsor of the FIFA World Cup.**
- **FIFA 2022 Official Match Ball: Al Rihla**, created by Adidas
- FIFA 2026 host countries: **United States, Mexico, Canada**
- FIFA President: **Gianni Infantino**
- FIFA Headquarters: **Zurich, Switzerland.**



Source: BS

#### 4. Meghalaya hosted 83rd National Table Tennis Championships 2022

- The **83<sup>rd</sup> National Table Tennis Championship 2022**, which was began on April 18, 2022, held at **SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong Meghalaya**.
- The Northeast has hosted the world's largest table tennis tournament for the second time.
- The event also marks the **50<sup>th</sup> statehood celebration of Meghalaya**.
- Capital: **Shillong**
- **Chief Minister: Conrad Kongkal Sangma**
- Governor: **Satya Pal Malik**
- World Heritage Tentative List: **Living Bridge (2022)**, also known as **Jingkieng Jris**

#### 5. Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest champion of Miami Open



- 18-year-old **Spanish Carlos Alcaraz** has created history to become the **youngest champion** to win the prestigious title of **Men's Single Miami Open** after defeating **World No. 8 Casper Ruud**.
- Alcaraz has **replaced Novak Djokovic** as the **youngest men's singles champion** at the Masters 1000 tournament.
- **Women's Single Miami Open 2022** was won by **Iga Swiatek (Poland)** after defeating **Naomi Osaka** of Japan. This is her 17<sup>th</sup> straight title win.

#### 6. 'Veera' is the official mascot of the second Khelo India University Games

- **Thawar Chand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka**, has launched an **official mascot and logo** for the **Khelo India University Games** in the presence of **Anurag Singh Thakur, Sports Minister**, at the **Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru**.
- **Official mascot: Veera (Elephant)**
- **Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty and Nikhil Joshi** sang the anthem.
- **Host state: Karnataka**
- First edition **Khelo India University Games** was hosted by **Odisha in 2020**.



*Source: PIB*

#### 7. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports released USD 72,124 to UNESCO Fund



- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has released **72,124 Dollars** to the **UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport in 2022**.
- In the 7th COP, the State Parties had agreed for the **contribution of 1% of the regular budget of the respective nations** to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.
- India has contributed **USD 28172** towards the **UNESCO Fund in 2021**.
- The Fund for the **Elimination of Doping in Sport** was established in **2008**.



## 8. Charles Leclerc wins Formula One Australian Grand Prix 2022

- Ferrari driver **Charles Leclerc** has named the title F1 **Australian Grand Prix 2022** held on 10 April 2022 at Albert Park Circuit, in Melbourne, Victoria.
- He surpassed Red Bull's driver Sergio Pérez and Mercedes's driver George Russell.
- Mercedes's driver **Lewis Hamilton** placed fourth ahead of the McLarens of Norris and Ricciardo.
- **Other Grand Prix 2022** -
- Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2022: **Max Verstappen (Red Bull)**
- F1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2022: **Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)**



Source: TOI

## 9. Thailand Open Boxing Tournament 2022



- A group of 15 Indian boxers has **won the 10 medals**, including **three golds, four silvers, and three bronze** at the **Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022** in Phuket.
- The winner of the Gold medal earned USD 2000.
- **Gold: Govind Sahani (48kg), Ananta Pralhad Chopde (54kg), Sumit (75kg)**
- **Silver: Amit Panghal (52kg), Monika (48kg), Varinder Singh (60kg), Ashish Kumar (81kg)**
- **Bronze: Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg) Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg)**

## 10. Babar Azam, Rachael Haynes named ICC Players of the Month for March 2022

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced that the **Pakistan skipper Babar Azam** and **Australia Rachael Haynes** were named the **ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for March 2022**.
- **Babar Azam** has showcased stunning form during Pakistan's concluded multi-format home series against Australia; he scored 390 runs in the three-match Test series.
- **Australia Rachael Haynes** scored 429 runs in eight games with an average of 61.28.
- ICC Chairman: **Greg Barclay**, CEO: **Geoff Allardice**



## 11. Netherlands crowns FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022



- The **Netherlands** has **lifted their fourth title** of **FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022** after **beating Germany** at Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- **England** claimed the **bronze medal** in the third-place match after defeating **India** by 3-0 in the shoot-out.
- The **FIH** has **banned Russia** from the **2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup** due to **2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine**.
- Most successful team: **Netherlands**
- **2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup: Santiago, Chile**





## 12. Rohit Sharma becomes second Indian player to score 10,000 runs in T20

- Mumbai Indians skipper, **Rohit Sharma** has become the **second Indian after Virat Kohli** and the **seventh batter overall to score 10,000 runs** in the **T20 cricket**.
- He 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

## 13. Australia's Victoria to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games



- **Victoria city will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games** which will be held in **Australia**.
- The **2026 Games will be the 23rd edition** of the major multi-sport competition, which **first began in Hamilton, Canada in 1930**.
- The Games will be organised across multiple cities and regional hubs including **Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Gippsland**.
- The **opening ceremony place: The Melbourne Cricket Ground (100,000-capacity)**.
- Australia has organised Commonwealth Games **five times – Sydney (1938), Perth (1962), Brisbane (1982), and Gold Coast (2018)**.

Source: IndianExpress

## 14. Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023 hosted by India

- The **Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023** will be hosted by **Street Child United and Save the Children India**.
- **There will be 22 teams from 16 countries**.
- This world cup will be held in September ahead of the ICC World Cup, and street children and young people take part in a mixed-gender cricket tournament.
- In **2019, Team India South has won the cup after beating hosts England**.
- In **2023 India will host: 2023 Cricket World Cup; 2023 IOC session in Mumbai; National Delphic Games; 2023 G20 Delhi summit**.



Source: Newsonair

## 15. Haryana wins 12th Senior Hockey National championship



- **Haryana** has been crowned the champions of the **12<sup>th</sup> Senior Men's National Hockey Championship** after **beating Tamil Nadu by 3-1 in the shootout**.
- Haryana has won the trophy for the first time since 2011.
- The hockey tournament was **held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from April 6 to 17, 2022**.
- Karnataka has triumphed over Maharashtra by 4-3 in the third/fourth place classification match.
- **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023: Odisha** (twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela)



## 16. Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah named Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year

- **Rohit Sharma** (India captain) and **Jasprit Bumrah** (Pacer) have been named among the “Five Cricketers of the Year” 2022 of the Wisden Almanack.
- **Other three: Ollie Robinson** (England fast bowler), **Dane van Niekerk** (South African women's player) and **Devon Conway** (New Zealand opener).
- **Leading Cricketer in the World:** Former England captain Joe Root
- **Leading Woman Cricketer in the World:** Lizelle Lee (South Africa)
- **Leading T20 Cricketer:** Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)



## 17. Two women won bronze in Asian Wrestling Championships 2022



- **Sarita Mor** and **Sushma Shokeen** have won bronze medals for India at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- **Sarita Mor (59kg)** has won two group matches to finish third in the field of five grapplers.
- **Sushma Shokeen (55 kg)** has lost to Umi Imai of Japan and Otgonjargal Ganbaatar of Mongolia.
- Shokeen then defeated Altyn Shagayeva from Kazakhstan 5-0 and Uzbekistan's Sarbinaz Jienbaeva 12-0 to finish third in the group of five.

Source: Newsonair

## 18. Andrey Rublev wins Serbia Open title

- **Andrey Rublev** (Russian) has defeated world No. 1 **Novak Djokovic** (Serbia) to win his third title in the **Serbia Open**.
- Andrey Rublev has saved five set points in the second set to force a tie-break, but he was unable to prevent Djokovic from levelling the match.
- **Rublev has now equalled Rafael Nadal** (Spain) for the most tour-level titles in 2022
- He also clinched crowns in **Marseille and Dubai in February 2022**.



Source: atptour.com

## 19. India won gold medal in Archery World Cup Stage-1



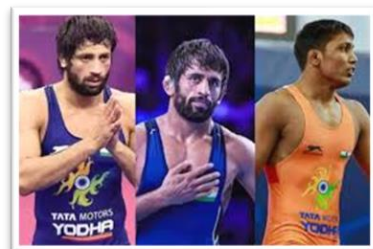
- **India** has defeated **France** by 232-231 in the compound men's team final to win the gold medal in the **Archery World Cup Stage-1 at Antalya, Turkey**.
- The **Indian trio of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, and Aman Saini** has defeated the French team of Jean Philippe Boulch, Quentin Baraer and Adrien Gontier.
- The **Indian duo of Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi** has defeated Alex Wise and Bryony Pitman of Great Britain to win recurve mixed team gold medal.
- This was the first team gold for both **Rajat and Aman**.
- **Abhishek** was also part of the Indian side that won the **first ever gold in Shanghai in 2017**.

Source: Newsonair



## 20. Indian wrestler won Gold in Asian Wrestling Championship

- **Indian Men wrestlers** have won **one gold, three silver and three bronze medals** at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Ulaanbaatar.
- **Gold:** Ravi Dahiya beats Kazakhstan's Kalzhan Rakhat(57kg)
- **Silver:** Bajrang Punia (65Kg), Deepak Punia (86kg), and Gourav Baliyan (79kg)
- **Bronze:** Naveen (70kg), Viky (92kg) and Satywart (97kg)
- Indian women wrestlers **Anshu Malik (57kg) and Radhika (65 kg)** have won silver and **Manisha (62 kg) has clinched bronze** in the women's freestyle category.



*Source: Newsonair*



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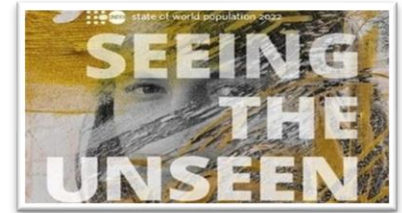
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# RANKS, REPORT AND INDEXES

## 1. UNFPA releases the “State of the World Population 2022:

- The United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) has released a report titled '**State of the World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen.**
- The report shows that nearly half of all pregnancies were unintended.
- The report highlights over 60% of unintended pregnancies ended in abortion, with 45% of all abortions considered unsafe, causing 5-13% of all maternal deaths.
- UNFPA Executive Director: **Dr Natalia Kanem**



## 2. Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022:

	Name	Wealth US\$bn	% change	Main Company	Age	Country of Residence
1	Wu Yajun	17	0%	Longfor	59	China
2	Fan Hongwei	13	-41%	Hengli	55	China
3	Wang Lichun	11	-21%	Luxshare Precision	55	China
4	Zhong Huijuan	10	-57%	Hansoh	61	China
5	Chen Lihua	9.2	12%	Fu Wah	81	China
6	Diane Hendricks	9	1%	ABC Supply	74	USA
7	Denise Coates	8.2	-22%	Bet365	54	UK
8	Cheng Xue	7.9	-31%	Haitian	52	China
9	Zhou Xunfei	7.8	50%	Leica	52	China
10	Falguni Nayar	7.6	New	Nykaa	58	India
10	Zhao Yan	7.6	-24%	Bloomage	56	China

Source: Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022  
↑ up from last year, ↓ down, = unchanged, \* New to Top 10

- The **Hurun Research Institute** has released the 12th year of the Hurun Richest **Self-Made Women in the World 2022.**
- With US\$7.6bn, Mumbai-based **Falguni Nayar**, **Nykaa** marks her presence in the **Top 10.**
- With US\$3.9bn, **Radha Vembu**, **Zoho** is the **third richest** self-made woman billionaire in India.

- According to the report, Japan, Germany, France, Canada and S. Korea are the world’s largest economies without a single self-made woman billionaire.

## Hurun List of Healthcare Billionaires 2022:

- The Chairman and Managing Director of Serum Institute of India(SII), Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla has topped the Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022 with a new value of USD 26 billion (up 41%).
- He is followed by Thomas Frist Jr & Family of HCA Healthcare, Li Xiting and Xu Hang of Mindray (Net value of USD 19 billion).
- China (34) followed by the USA (16), Switzerland (15), Germany (11), and India (9) have the most healthcare industry billionaires.

	Name	Wealth US\$bn	% change	Main Company	Age	Country
1	Cyrus Poonawalla	26	41%	Serum	80	India
2	Thomas Frist Jr & family	19	46%	HCA Healthcare	83	USA
2	Li Xiting	19	-17%	Mindray	71	China
2	Xu Hang	19	-17%	Mindray	60	China
5	Dilip Shanghvi & family	18	44%	Sun Pharmaceutical	66	India
6	Jiang Rensheng & family	17	-35%	Zhifei	69	China
7	Andreas Strungmann	15	50%	BioNTech	71	Germany
7	Thomas Strungmann	15	50%	BioNTech	71	Germany
7	Chen Bang	15	-42%	Aier Ophthalmology	57	China
7	Massimiliana Landini Aleotti & family	15	0%	Menarini	79	Italy

Source: Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022

## 3. Forbes World’s Billionaires List 2022:

- **Forbes** has released the **36th annual World’s Billionaires List 2022**, which is topped by **Elon Musk** with **net worth of \$219 billion** (the Tesla and SpaceX founder) followed by Jeff Bezos (\$171 B), Bernard Arnault & family (\$158 B), Bill Gates.
- Among Indians, **Ambani (\$90.7 billion)** has been placed on **10th** position, followed by Gautam Adani (\$90 billion) in 11th position.
- **World's Richest Woman 2022: Francoise Bettencourt Meyers** (granddaughter of **L’Oréal’s** founder)

## 4. QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022:

- In **12<sup>th</sup> QS World University Rankings 2022** has listed IIT-Bombay at 65<sup>th</sup> and IIT-Delhi at 72<sup>nd</sup> in the engineering and technology list this year.
- **The top institute's rankings:**
- **Arts and Humanities:** University of Oxford(UK)

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- **Engineering and Technology:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
- **Natural Sciences:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)(USA)
- Life Sciences & Medicine: Harvard University (USA)
- Social Sciences & Management: Harvard University (USA)

### 5. State Energy and Climate Index:

- **Gujarat has topped the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index (SECI)-Round One, followed by Kerala and Punjab.**
- **Smaller states (Top 3):** Goa, Tripura, and Manipur
- **Bottom states:** Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand
- SECI-round 1 includes **six parameters:** discoms performance; access affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; environmental sustainability; and new initiatives.
- **NITI Aayog CEO:** Amitabh Kant

### 6. Extreme poverty in India:

- According to the World Bank report, **poverty in India is 12.3% lower in 2019 as compared to 2011.**
- The poverty headcount rate has declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019.
- Poverty depletion was higher in rural areas as compared to urban India.
- **Rural poverty declined by 14.7%** while the **urban poverty rate declined by 7.9%** from 2011 to 2019.
- Small landholding farmers have experienced higher income growth.

### 7. World Economic Outlook report:

- The **International Monetary Fund(IMF)** has **reduced the global growth** for the calendar year 2022 to **3.6% from 4.4%.**
- **Report:** World Economic Outlook report
- Reason: Due to commodity price volatility and disruption of supply chains caused by the war.
- IMF also cut its **forecast for India's FY23 GDP growth to 8.2%** from 9%.
- Recently, World Bank also slashed the global growth forecast to 3.2%.
- World Bank GDP forecast for India: 8% (FY22-23)
- RBI GDP forecast: 7.2% (FY22-23)

### 8. World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders list 2022:

- **Raghav Chadha (AAP leader)**, Mykhailo Fedorov (Ukrainian Vice PM and Minister of Digital Transformation), and **Radhika Gupta (Edelweiss MF CEO)** were **named by the WEF 2022 list of Young Global Leaders who are under 40.**
- **Other Indians:** Manasi Joshi (Athlete), Ritesh Malik (founder of Innov8 Coworking), Suhail Sameer (Bharat Pe, CEO), Vineeta Singh (Sugar Cosmetics CEO), and Jaideep Bansal(Global Himalayan Expedition CEO).





## 9. Global military expenditure: SIPRI: Key Highlights:

- According to new data on global military spending by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) total global military expenditure has increased by 0.7 per cent in real terms in 2021, to reach \$2113 billion.
- The five largest spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure.
- European spending in 2021 accounted for 20% of the global total, and China's defense budget, the world's second largest, is estimated to make up 14%.
- The U.S. remains by far the biggest spender, with \$801 billion allocated to the armed forces in 2021.
- Russia increased its military expenditure by 2.9 per cent in 2021, to \$65.9 billion, at a time when it was building up its forces along the Ukrainian border.
- Ukraine's military spending has risen by 72 per cent since the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

### Other notable developments:

- In 2021 Iran's military budget increased for the first time in four years, to \$24.6 billion. Funding for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps continued to grow in 2021—by 14 per cent compared with 2020—and accounted for 34 per cent of Iran's total military spending.
- Eight European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members reached the Alliance's target of spending 2 per cent or more of GDP on their armed forces in 2021. This is one fewer than in 2020 but up from two in 2014.
- Nigeria raised its military spending by 56 per cent in 2021, to reach \$4.5 billion. The rise came in response to numerous security challenges such as violent extremism and separatist insurgencies.
- India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world. This was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012. In a push to strengthen the indigenous arms industry, 64 per cent of capital outlays in the military budget of 2021 were earmarked for acquisitions of domestically produced arms.

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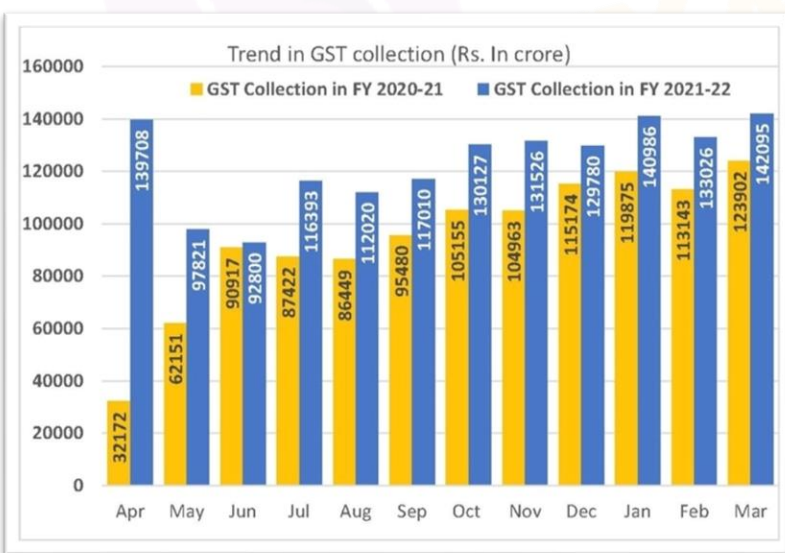
# ECONOMICS NEWS

## 1. India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement signed

- **India and Australia** have signed an **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**.
- Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** and Trade, Tourism and Investment Minister of Australia **Dan Tehan** signed this agreement.
- The agreement was signed in a virtual ceremony in the presence of PM Modi and the PM of Australia **Scott Morrison**.
- The agreement was finalised in a short span of time which showed that **India and Australia** share mutual trust.
- Terming this a remarkable day, **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said, there is a **huge potential in the area of textiles, information technology and pharmaceutical** among others.
- Commerce and Industry Ministry said, growing India-Australia economic and commercial relations contribute to the **stability and strength of a rapidly diversifying and deepening relationship between the two countries**. The agreement encompassing **trade in goods and services is a balanced and equitable trade agreement**, which will further **strengthen the strategic relations between the two countries**.
- Australia Capital: **Canberra**
- Australia Currency: **Australian dollar**
- Australia Prime minister: **Scott Morrison**

Source: Newsonair

## 2. GST collection over Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March 2022



- The **gross collection of GST** has touched an all-time **high of over 1,42,095 cr in March 2022**.
- The government has collected CGST is 25,830 crore rupees, SGST is 32,378 crores, IGST is 74,470
- In March 2022, revenues from the import of goods were 25% higher, and the revenues from the domestic transaction were 11% higher than in the same month last year.
- **GST day** is observed on **1 July** every year.
- GST implemented by the **101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016**

### What is Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

- A **value-added tax** levied on most **goods and services sold for domestic consumption**.
- GST Bill was first introduced in **2014** as **Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill**.
- Got an approval in **2016**.
- Renumbered in the statute by Rajya Sabha as **Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016**.

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- According to the **Article 246A, States have power to tax goods and services.**
- GST Council to be formed by the **President** to administer & govern GST. It's **Chairman is Union Finance Minister of India** with ministers nominated by the state governments as its members.
- It is based on the principle of **destination-based consumption taxation**
- GST to be levied by the **Centre is called Central GST (CGST)** and that to be levied by the States is called **State GST (SGST).**
- GST was levied at four rates viz. **5%, 12%, 16% and 28%.**

Source: Newsonair

### 3. RBI sets the WMA limit for states at Rs 47010 cr

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to **cut the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and Union Territories to Rs 47,010 crore from Rs 51,560 crore.**
- WMA are temporary advances that the RBI gives to the government over any mismatch in receipts and payments.
- The change in the limit is effective **from April 1, 2022**, and is subject to review.
- **WMA limit for the Government of India** for the **first half of the financial year 2022-23** has been set at **Rs 1,50,000 crore.**

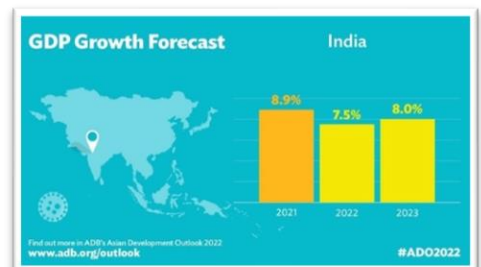
#### About Ways and Means Advance:

- WMA scheme was introduced in **1997**
- To meet disparities in the **receipts and payments of the government.**
- By this, government can avail **immediate cash from the RBI.**
- Government must return the amount **within 90 days.**

- Interest is charged at the existing **repo rate.**
- **If repayment exceeds 90 days**, it would be treated as an overdraft. **Interest= Repo rate+2%.**
- Limits for WMA are decided by the **government and RBI mutually time to time.**

### 4. ADB estimated India's economy to grow by 7.5% in FY23

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has **forecasted 7% combined growth for South Asian countries in 2022.**
- **India's economy will grow 7.5% in 2022 and 8% in 2023**
- Report: Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022
- Factors affecting the economy: Covid new variant, Russia-Ukraine crises (higher global oil and commodity prices).



#### About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** envisions a **prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific**, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.
- ADB assists its members, and partners, by providing **loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.**

- ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance by **facilitating policy dialogues, providing advisory services, and mobilizing financial resources through co-financing operations** that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.
- **ADB established in 1966**
- **ADB president: Masatsugu Asakawa**
- **Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines**

Source: ADB.Org

## 5. Centre infuses ₹5,000 crores into NICL, UICL, and OICL



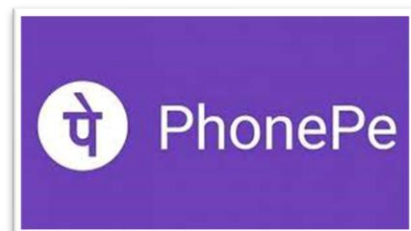
- The government **infused ₹5,000 crores** in three state-run insurance companies i.e. **₹3,700 crores in NICL, ₹1,200 crores in OICL, and Rs 100 crores in UICL.**
- This authorised capital will be used to subscribe to the share capital of the respective public sector general insurance companies and issuance of shares to the Centre against the subscription.

- The three state-owned general insurers that cover 20% market share have been unprofitable.
- A notification issued by the finance ministry on April 13 said that for **NICL the authorised capital will now be ₹15,000 crore, for OICL it will be ₹7,500 crore and for UICL, authorised capital has been raised to ₹7,500 crore from ₹5,000 crore.**

Source: ET

## 6. PhonePe partners with Extreme IX to adopt internet exchange

- **PhonePe** comes in a **partnership** internet exchange point, **Extreme IX** to enable **faster digital payments.**
- This partnership helps PhonePe to decrease the latency for its users irrespective of their location or ISP in India.
- **PhonePe** has become the **first digital payments platform** to participate in an Internet Exchange in India.
- **Extreme IX has 30 points of presence in 5 cities in India.** It provides access to content by operating a neutral and faster interconnection platform in the country.
- More than **450 networks** which includes **Internet Service Providers and prominent Content Delivery Networks** like **Netflix, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Akamai** to name a few, are connected to **Extreme IX fabric.**
- Executive Director of Extreme IX– **Raunak Maheshwari**
- **Phone pe CEO– Sameer Nigam; Headquarters – Bengaluru, Karnataka.**



Source: LiveMint

## 7. Nexo, Mastercard to launch world's first "crypto-backed" payment card



- Cryptocurrency lender, **Nexo** has joined hands with global payments company **Mastercard** to launch the **world's first "crypto-backed" payment card.**
- Electronic money firm **DiPocket is Nexo's card issuer.**
- **Interest remains at 0%** for customers who **maintain a loan-to-value ratio of 20% or below.**
- The card is linked to a Nexo-provided, crypto-backed credit line and can be used at **92 million merchants worldwide** where Mastercard is accepted, allowing investors to spend up to **90% of the fiat value of their crypto assets.**
- This move by crypto and incumbent financial networks forces digital assets to become more mainstream.
- Initially, the card will be available in selected **European countries.**

Source: ET





### 8. SBI raises \$500 million through IFSC Gift City branch

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has raised 3-year funds of **\$500 million** through a syndicated loan facility at “**very fine pricing**” through its **IFSC Gift City branch**.
- This is the first offshore **USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** linked syndicated loan raised by **SBI** through its **Gift City branch**.
- **MUFG, Bank of America and JP Morgan** were the Joint lenders for this offering.
- SBI Chairperson: **Dinesh Kumar Khara**



Source: TOI

### 9. Indian SaaS to reach \$100 billion in revenues by 2026: Report



- According to the 2022 edition of the **Chiratae-Zinnov India SaaS report** titled, “**India SaaS - Punching Through the Global Pecking Order**”, the Indian **SaaS (Software As A Service)** industry is set to clock in **\$100 billion** in revenues by **2026**.
- The industry in India is witnessing a ‘**coming-of-age**’ moment, “with an incredible bull run that has firmly anchored its position on the global stage

- Indian SaaS witnessed massive growth at approx **55 per cent CAGR** in 2021.
- India is on track to surpass China as the **second-largest SaaS nation** in the next few years, after surpassing UK this year in the number of SaaS unicorns.
- The report also identifies the key attributes that have accelerated the success of the SaaS industry- ‘**SPARK**,’- Supportive Policies, Proven Global Caliber, Abundant Liquidity, Rearing Domestic Talent, and Kindled Exit Options.

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## HONORS & AWARDS

### 1. 'We Are' received 64<sup>th</sup> Grammy Album of the Year

- The ceremony of the **64<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards 2022** was held in Las Vegas; this prestigious award was announced by the **National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences**.
- **Album of the Year: 'We Are' by Jon Batiste**
- **Record of the Year: 'Leave the Door Open' by Silk Sonic**
- Song of the Year: Leave the Door Open
- New Artist: Olivia Rodrigo
- Best Global Music Performance: Mohabbat by Arooj Aftab (**First Pakistani**)
- Best Global Music Album: Mother Nature by Angelique Kidjo



### 2. Chameli Devi Jain Award won by Journalist Aarefa Johari



- **Journalist Aarefa Johari** was selected as the winner of the **Chameli Devi Jain Award** in the category of an **Outstanding Woman Media person 2021**.
- She has been working with **Scroll.in** for the last eight years.
- The Media Foundation has administered **Chameli Devi Jain Award** since **1981**.
- **Chameli Devi Jain Award** is a recognition for **women media persons** in India who have reported on, *gender justice, social development, politics, equity and consumer values*.

Source: Scroll.in

### 3. NASA climate research scientist wins World Food Prize

- NASA climate research scientist, **Cynthia Rosenzweig** has been awarded **World Food Prize**.
- She is an **agronomist and climatologist** and spent much of her career explaining **how global food production must adapt to a changing climate**.
- She was awarded **\$250,000 prize** in recognition of her innovative modeling of the impact of climate change on food production.
- She is a senior research scientist at the **NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies**.



#### About World Food Prize

- The **World Food Prize** is awarded for a *specific, exceptionally significant, individual achievement that advances human development with a demonstrable increase in the quantity, quality, availability of, or access to food* through creative interventions at any point within the full scope of the food system.
- Conceived by **Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug** and established in **1986**.

#### Indian Winners of World Food Prize:

- **1987: M. S. Swaminathan**
- **1989: Verghese Kurien**
- **1996: Gurdev Khush**
- **1998: B.R. Barwale**
- **2000: Surinder Vasal**
- **2005: Modadugu Vijay Gupta**
- **2014: Sanjaya Rajaram**
- **2020: Rattan Lal**

Source: abcnews.go.com



#### 4. 'Kamloops Residential School' wins World Press Photo of the Year 2022



- A titled 'Kamloops Residential School' photograph taken by Canadian photographer Amber Bracken won the title of **World Press Photo of the Year 2022**.
- The photograph shows the death of children due to cruelty at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.
- **Photo Story of the Year prize:** Australian photographer Matthew Abbott for National Geographic/Panos Pictures

- **World Photography Day: 19 August**

#### 5. Nilamani Phookan conferred with 56th Jnanpith Award

- Eminent **Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan** will be Conferred with the country's highest literary award, **56<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith at Guwahati**.
- Nilmani Phookan is the **third person** to win the Jnanpith Award from Assam after Mamoni Roisom Goswami and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya.
- Notable works of Phookan: 'Xurjya Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita', and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'
- **57<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith Award 2022:** Novelist Damodar Mauzo was chosen for his contribution to Indian literature.



#### 6. Bishesh Huirem becomes first transgender to win best actor award



- **Bishesh Huirem** becomes the **first transgender actress** who was honoured with the **Best Actor Award** in the prestigious **Manipur State Film Awards**.
- She received the award for exceptional performance in the **film 'Apaiba Leichil' (floating clouds) for portraying a transgender character**. She also clinched the Special Mention Award.
- She had represented India at the **Miss International Queen for Transgender** held in Thailand in 2016.

- She has a degree in **professional fashion designs from Garden College, Bangalore**.
- **Best Feature Film:** 'Eikhoigi Yum' directed by Romi Meitei
- **Best Direction Award:** Bobby Haobam for the film 'Rongdaife'

*Source: IndianExpress*

#### 7. PM Narendra Modi honoured with Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

- **PM Modi** has been **honoured** with the **inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** which is instituted in the memory of the veteran singer of **Lata Mangeskar**.
- The award ceremony was held on **April 24** which marks the **80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar (singing legend's father)**.
- **Other awardees:** *Singer Rahul Despande, Veteran actress Asha Parekh, Actor Jackie Shroff and the Mumbai Dabbawalas, represented by Nutan Tiffin Suppliers.*





## 8. NMDC wins two awards at 80th SKOCH Summit 2022

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**NMDC**

- **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)**, under the **Ministry of Steel** has been awarded with one gold and one silver award in the **80th SKOCH Summit in New Delhi**.
- The **Theme** 80th SKOCH Summit 2022 is '**State of BFSI & PSUs**'.
- NMDC won gold in the **category of social responsibility** and silver in the **category digital inclusion** for the '**Project Kalpataru**' for ERP implementation.

- **NMDC Headquarters: Hyderabad.**
- **Chairman & MD: Sumit Deb**

*Source: PIB*

## 9. Mumbai is recognised as a 'Tree City Of The World'

- **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO)** and **Arbor Day Foundation** have recognised **Mumbai city** as '**Tree City of the World**' for **2021** after **Hyderabad (2020 Tree City of the World)**.
- Mumbai has received recognition for its **commitment towards growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery** in building **healthy, resilient and happy cities**.
- 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**.
- **CEO of Arbor Day Foundation: Dan Lambe**
- **UNFAO Director-General: Qu Dongyu.**
- **UNFAO Headquarters: Rome**



*Source: IndianExpress*

## 10. Falguni Nayar won EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Award 2021



- **Founder & CEO of Nykaa, Falguni Nayar** has won the **EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021** and will represent India at the **EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY)** on **9 June 2022** at **Monaco**.
- **A.M. Naik** from **Larsen & Toubro** has been honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

### Category Winners

- **Start-up: Vidit Aatrey, Co-founder & CEO and Sanjeev Barnwal, Co-founder & CTO, Fashnear Technology (Meesho)**
- **Business Transformation: Abhay Soi, Chairman and Managing Director, Max Healthcare**
- **Manufacturing: Sunil Vachani, Founder and Executive Chairman, Dixon Technologies**
- **Services: Sahil Barua, Co-founder and CEO, Delhivery**
- **Consumer Products & Retail: Shiv Kishan Agarwal, Chairman; and Manohar Lal Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director respectively, Haldiram Group**





- Life Sciences & Healthcare: **Dr. Satyanarayana Chava, Founder and CEO, Laurus Labs**
- Financial Services: **Harshil Mathur, Co-founder and CEO; and Shashank Kumar, Co-founder and CTO, Razorpay**
- Technology, Media and Telecom: **Girish Mathrubootham, Co-founder and CEO, Freshworks**
- Entrepreneurial CEO: **Vivek Vikram Singh, Managing Director and Group CEO, Sona Comsta**

## 11. Vice President presents International Gandhi Award for Leprosy 2021



- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has presented the **International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021** to **Dr. Bhushan Kumar** of **Chandigarh and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat**.
- The award is instituted by **Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation**.
- Both **Dr. Bhushan Kumar** and **Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust** have been working to raise awareness about leprosy and in providing care to those afflicted with it.

- Acknowledging India's steady fight against leprosy, Mr. Naidu said that **India successfully accomplished levels of leprosy eradication defined as less than one case per ten thousand population**.

### What is Leprosy?

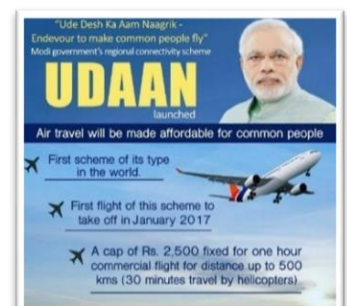
- It's a **chronic, progressive bacterial infection**.
- Caused by a bacterium called **Mycobacterium Leprae**.
- One of the oldest diseases in recorded history,
- Well recognized in the oldest civilizations of **China, Egypt and India** thousands of years ago.
- Mainly by **breathing airborne droplets** from the affected individuals.
- It can be contacted at any age.

- Usually takes about **3-5 years for symptoms to appear** after contact with Leprosy causing bacteria.
- Leprosy is curable with the combination of drugs known as **Multi-Drug Therapy**.
- **National Leprosy Eradication Programme** achieved the goal of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in Dec-2005.
- Now it defined as less than 1 case per 10,000 population at the National Level.
- **World Leprosy Day (WLD)** is celebrated on the **last Sunday of January**.
- In 2022, World Leprosy Day is **30 January**.
- 2022 WLD Theme was:- **United for Dignity**

Source: PIB

## 12. UDAN scheme selected for Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020

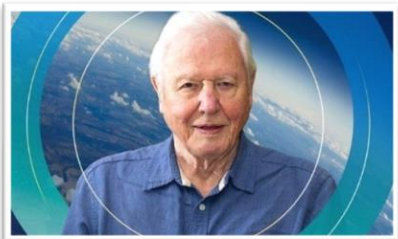
- Civil Aviation Ministry Flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme '**Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik**' (**UDAN**) has been selected for **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020** under the category Innovation (General) - Central.
- The government has initiated this award to **acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work** done by **Districts and Organizations of State and Government**.
- UDAN scheme emphasizes on **Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity** rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets.



- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** was launched as a **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** in **2016**.
- In a short span of **five years**, **415 UDAN routes** have connected **66 underserved and unserved airports**, including heliports and over **92 lakh people** have benefited from it. UDAN scheme has immensely benefitted several sectors pan-India including **Hilly States, North-Eastern region and Islands**.
- Award consists of **trophy, scroll** and an incentive of **Rs 10 lakh**.

*Source: Newsonair*

### 13. Sir David Attenborough named Champions of the Earth Award 2021



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

- Other winners:
- **Policy Leadership:** Mia Mottley (Prime Minister of Barbados)

- **Inspiration And Action:** Sea Women of Melanesia (Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands)
- **Entrepreneurial Vision:** Maria Kolesnikova (Kyrgyz Republic)

#### About the UNEP Champions of the Earth

- The **UN Environment Programme's Champions of the Earth** honours individuals, groups, and organizations whose actions have a **transformative impact on the environment**. The annual Champions of the Earth Award is the **UN's highest environmental honour**. It recognizes **outstanding leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector**.

#### About the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

- The **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030** is a rallying call for the **protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world**, for the benefit of people and nature. It

aims to **halt the degradation of ecosystems** and restore them to **achieve global goals**.

#### About the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

- **UNEP** is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides **leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations**.
- **Headquarter:** - Nairobi, Kenya
- **Executive Director:** - Inger Andersen
- **Formation:** - 5 June 1972

### 14. Kishore Das selected for Commonwealth Points of Light Award

- **Kishore Kumar Das (Bangladesh)** has been chosen for the **Commonwealth Points of Light Award** for his **exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds**.
- **Commonwealth Point of Light Awards** recognise outstanding individual volunteers who are making a change in their community.
- He started an **educational charity named Bidyanando** in 2013 with just 22 students.
- He also started a **meal programme named Ek takay aahar (Meal for one Taka)** which has provided more than 10,000 nutritious meals for vulnerable people (particularly children, homeless).



### About Points of Light

- First established by President George H. W. Bush in 1990, over 6,000 US Points of Light have been recognised in the USA.
- UK Points of Light was developed in partnership with the US programme and

launched in the Cabinet Room at 10 Downing Street in April 2014.

- Points of Light are outstanding individual volunteers – *people who are making a change in their community.*

Source: Newsonair

### 15. Volodymyr Zelenskyy gets John F. Kennedy award



- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has selected the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for acting to protect democracy.
- Zelenskyy was selected because he *marshalled the spirit, patriotism and untiring sacrifice of the Ukrainian people in a life-or-death fight for their country.*
- He was among the five people named as recipients of the *John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award* for acting to protect democracy.
- Other winners are *Republican U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Arizona House Speaker Rusty Bowers, and Fulton County, Georgia, elections worker Wandrea “Shaye” Moss.*
- Caroline Kennedy and Jack Schlossberg will present the awards on May 22 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

Source: Newsonair

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## APPOINTMENTS

### 1. Dr S Raju became Director-General of the Geological Survey of India

- **Dr S Raju** has taken charge as **Director-General** of the **Geological Survey of India in Kolkata** w.e.f. April 1, 2022.
- Earlier, he was an Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ
- He **succeeded R. S. Garkhal**, superannuated on March 31, 2022.
- **Geological Survey of India Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India**
- Aim of GSI: **Locating mineral resources including coal.**
- GSI works under: **Ministry of Mines.**



### 2. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation appointed Vikas Kumar as MD



- **Vikas Kumar** has been named the **new Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** for five years from April 1, 2022.
- He succeeded **Mangu Singh**, whose tenure ended on March 31, 2022.
- He was holding the position of Director (Operations) in DMRC and has over three decades of experience in rail based urban transportation projects.

- **DMRC operation commenced: December 2002**
- **Chairman: Manoj Joshi**
- **Metro Man: E Sreedharan**

### 3. Hungary PM Viktor Orban won the National Assembly election

- **Hungary's** authoritarian **prime minister, Viktor Orban** has declared victory in parliamentary elections.
- He is a **member of the Fidesz party.**
- He is **serving as PM since 2010**, and this will be his fourth consecutive term as prime minister.
- **Hungary joined NATO in 1999** and **joined the EU in 2004.**
- **Hungary's Capital: Budapest**
- **Currency: Forint**



*Source: edition.cnn.com*

### 4. Vinay Kwatra to be India's new Foreign Secretary



- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved **Vinay Mohan Kwatra** as the **new Foreign Secretary**, who **replaced Harsh Vardhan Shringla**, who retired on April 30, 2022.
- Kwatra has served as India's ambassador to France, PMO Joint secretary and **currently serving as India's envoy to Nepal.**

- He has a wide range of expertise in handling relations with the US and China and multilateral organisations such as the United Nations.
- **Host of G20 2023: India**

*Source: IndianExpress*





## 5. Dr Ian Fry named as a climate expert by UN Human Rights Council

- **Dr Ian Fry** has been appointed as the **world's first expert on climate change and human rights** for **three years**; he holds **both Australian and Tuvaluan citizenship**.
- He has negotiated on behalf of least developed countries including at the **2015 Paris climate conference** where he helped ensure that human rights were part of the final package.
- UNHRC has created the **new Special Rapporteur for climate change and human rights position in October 2021**.



### About United Nations Human Rights Council

- The **UN Human Rights Council** is an inter-governmental body within the **United Nations** system made up of **47 States** responsible for the **promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe**.

- The headquarters of the Council is at **Geneva in Switzerland**.
- The Council was established on **15 March 2006**.

Source: reuters.com

## 6. Alkesh Kumar Sharma assumes charge as new Secretary for MeitY



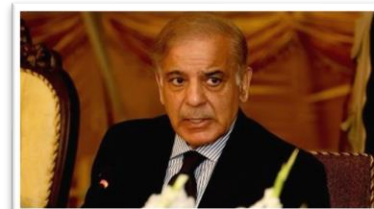
- **Alkesh Kumar Sharma** (1990 batch IAS of Kerala cadre) has assumed charge as **Secretary of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- Prior to this, he served as the **Additional Secretary and Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat**.
- He was also **chairman of Indian Highways Management Company** and implemented **FASTAG** system of toll collection.

- **Minister of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY): Ashwini Vaishnaw**.

Source: PIB

## 7. Shehbaz Sharif elected as 23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan

- The chief of **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)**, **Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif** has become the **23rd prime minister of Pakistan**.
- He got **174 votes in the 342-member National Assembly**.
- He has served three times (**1997, 2008, and 2013**) as **Pakistan Punjab's chief minister**.
- He is the **younger brother of former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif**.
- In 2018 he contested Pakistan PM election, in which Imran got 176 votes and he bagged only 96 votes at the time.
- **Pakistan President: Arif Alvi**



## 8. Dr. Manoj Soni appointed as new UPSC chairman



- **Dr. Manoj Soni** has succeeded **Pradip Kumar Joshi**, to become the **chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
- He served as the **nation's youngest university vice-chancellor of MS University in 2005**.
- He was associated with the **Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission at Mogri in Anand district**.

- He also received diksha (initiation) as a **nishkama karmayogi (selfless worker)** in **January 2020**.
- **UPSC formed: October 1, 1926**



## 9. Ex-IPS officer Lalpura re-appointed as NCM chief

- The central government has **re-appointed** the **retired Punjab-cadre IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura** as the chairperson of the **National Commission for Minorities**.
- He was **first appointed as chairman in September 2021** but resigned from the post in December to contest as the BJP candidate from the Ropar assembly constituency.
- He served as the **senior superintendent of police of Amritsar Rural, Kapurthala, and Tarn Taran districts**.
- **NCM Headquarters:** New Delhi



### About National Commission for Minorities

- **Minorities Commission (MC)** was set up in **1978** under **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- In **1984**, the **Minority Commission** was placed under the newly created **Ministry of Welfare**.
- Then it became a **statutory body** and was **renamed as the NCM in 1992**.
- In **1993**, the **first Statutory National Commission** was set up.
- 5 religious communities viz the **Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis)** were notified as minority communities.
- In **2014**, **Jains were also notified as a minority community**.
- NCM consists of a **Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five members** and all of them shall be from amongst the minority communities.

Source: HT

## 10. Lt. Gen Manoj Pande appointed as 29th Army Chief



- **Lieutenant General Manoj Pande** is appointed as the **29th Chief of Army Staff**. The appointment will come into effect **on April 30, 2022**.
- He will **succeed General M M Naravane** on May 1.
- He will be the **first officer from the Corps of Engineers** to become the COAS.
- He was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) in December 1982.
- He was **part of Operation Parakram**, the India-Pakistan standoff in the wake of the Parliament attack in 2001-02.

### About Chief of the Army Staff:

- **Head of the Indian Army**.
- **Highest-ranking officer of the Indian Army**.
- **Principal advisor to the Minister of Defence**.
- **Key military adviser to the President**.
- The post of **Commander-in-Chief**, India was established in **1748**.
- The designation was changed to "**Chief of Army Staff**" in **1955**.
- Appointments to the office are made by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.
- The COAS reaches superannuation upon **three years in the office** or at the **age of 62**, whichever is earlier.

### 11. Patrick Achi reappointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast

- **PM Patrick Achi** has been **reappointed** as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast by **President Alassane Ouattara**.
- He was appointed prime minister in March 2021.
- He was the **third prime minister** in the West African state (Ivory Coast) in the last three years after Amadou Gon Coulibaly (who died in 2020) and Hamed Bakayoko (who died in 2021).
- On April 13, 2022, President has accepted **Achi** resigned ahead of a government reshuffle. **Patrick Achi** has been reappointed as prime minister of Ivory Coast just a week after resigning from the post.
- **Ivory Coast Capital: Yamoussoukro**



### 12. Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar appointed as the next DG of Military Operations

- **Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar** has been appointed as the **next Director-General of Military Operations** with effect from **May 1**.
- He **worked as the General Officer Commanding of 1 Corps**, a strike formation that is responsible for **operations against both Pakistan and China**.
- He has also **worked as Director-General Staff Duties at Army Headquarters**.
- Katiyar is an alumnus of the **National Defence Academy**. He was commissioned in the **23rd battalion of the Rajput Regiment in 1986**. Later, he commanded the regiment along the **Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir**. He also graduated from the **National War College, USA**.
- Katiyar has also been rewarded with **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal**.
- Recently, **Lt Gen Manoj Pande** has been appointed as **29th Chief of Army Staff**.



*Source: Zeenews*

### 13. Ajay K Sood appointed as Principal Scientific Advisor



- **Ajay Kumar Sood** has been appointed as the **Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA)** to the govt of India for a period of 3 years.
- Presently he is a member of the **Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council** to the PM.
- He will succeed renowned biologist **K Vijay Raghavan**.
- The PSA's office aims to provide **pragmatic and objective advice to the PM** and cabinet on matters related to **science, technology, and innovation with a focus on the application of science and tech**.

#### Role of Principal Scientific Adviser

- Office was set-up in **November 1999** by the Cabinet Secretariat.
- To evolve **policies, strategies, and missions for the generation of innovations**.
- To **supervise science and technology projects in critical infrastructure, economic**

**and social sectors** in partnership with **Government departments, institutions, and industry**.

- **Principal Scientific Adviser Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet**.



#### 14. Suman Bery to replace Rajiv Kumar as NITI Vice Chairman

- Noted economist **Suman Bery** has been appointed as **Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman** with effect from May 1, 2022.
- He was appointed after **Rajiv Kumar** stepped down from the post.
- The Government accepted his resignation.
- Kumar, an eminent economist, took over as vice chairman of **Niti Aayog** in August 2017 after the then VC Arvind Panagariya exited the govt think-tank.
- Niti Aayog came into existence on **January 1, 2015**, replacing the decades-old **Planning Commission**.



#### **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)**

- **Planning Commission** was replaced by **NITI Aayog on January 1, 2015**
- Emphasises on **'Bottom –Up'** approach.
- Vision of **Maximum Governance, Minimum Government**.
- Serves as an advisory **Think Tank**.
- **Chairperson: Prime Minister**

- Fosters **cooperative federalism**
- Secretaries to be known as **CEO** appointed by Prime- Minister.
- It does not possess mandate to **impose policies**.
- It does not have **powers to allocate funds**, which are vested in **Finance Minister**.
- It draws membership from a **wider expertise**.

*Source: HinduBusinessLine*

#### 15. Robert Golob becomes Prime Minister of Slovenia



- **Robert Golob** has **defeated three-time prime minister Janez Janša** in the Slovenia PM election
- State election authorities have confirmed that the **Freedom Movement won nearly 34% of the votes** as compared to around 24% for the governing conservative Slovenian Democratic Party.
- The New Slovenia party with 7%, followed by the Social Democrats with more than 6% and the Left party with just 4%.

- **Slovenia Capital: Ljubljana.**
- **President: Borut Pahor.**
- **Currency: Euro**

#### 16. Emmanuel Macron re-elected as President of France

- **Emmanuel Macron (Party: La République En Marche!)** has won a **second term** as **president of France** with 58.2% of the vote.
- He set to become the **first president after Chirac who secured a second term in office**.
- He **defeated Marine Le Pen** (Party: Ras emblem national) who secured 41.8% of the vote in an election.
- In the 2017 election, La pen has secured 34% and got defeated by Macron who secured 66% of the vote.
- **France Capital: Paris.**



**Currency: Euro**





## IMPORTANT ONE LINERS QUESTIONS (April 2022)

### Important News – India

1. Which ministry has organised 'Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz' \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
2. At which place PM Narendra Modi has unveiled 108-foot statue of Lord Hanuman \_\_\_\_\_ Morbi, Gujarat.
3. In which state PM Narendra Modi has virtually dedicated 200-bed K K Patel Super Speciality Hospital to the nation \_\_\_\_\_ Bhuj in Kutch district of Gujarat.
4. In which state Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has unveiled a bronze statue of Pinnamaneni Koteswara Rao \_\_\_\_\_ Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.
5. What is the name of India's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Aksh.
6. At which pass the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will build the world's highest tunnel at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh \_\_\_\_\_ Shinku La Pass.

### Important News – State

1. Which state observed 'Equality Day' on the birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar on April 14 \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.
2. Who has been appointed by the Karnataka government as the brand ambassador for Brain Health Initiative which was started by the Karnataka Health Department \_\_\_\_\_ Robin Uthappa
3. Which UT has launched Jan Nigrani mobile application to help people lodge complaints related to various schemes online \_\_\_\_\_ Jammu and Kashmir.
4. In which district of Gujarat PM Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the various projects worth 22,000 crore rupees \_\_\_\_\_ Dahod in Gujarat.

### Important News – World

1. What is the name of first device which was to detect COVID-19 in breath samples, which has recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration of the United States of America

(USA) \_\_\_\_\_ **InspectiR COVID-19 Breathalyzer.**

2. According to the World Bank report, by what percent the poverty in India has been declined in 2019 as compared to 2011 \_\_\_\_\_ 12.3%.
3. According to the International Monetary Fund(IMF) World Economic Outlook report, what would be the global growth for the calendar year 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ 3.6%.
4. Who has topped the Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022 with a new value of USD 26 billion \_\_\_\_\_ Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman of Serum Institute of India(SII).
5. Which country has suspended agriculture import from India \_\_\_\_\_ Indonesia.
6. Which country has been elected to four bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) \_\_\_\_\_ India.
7. Which is a new laser-based air defence system successfully tested by Israel \_\_\_\_\_ Iron Beam.

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has been awarded the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu \_\_\_\_\_ **Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and SahyogKushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat.**
2. Which cricket player has been awarded with the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal at the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) Awards \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Southee (New Zealand pace bowler).
3. Which flagship scheme of Civil Aviation Ministry has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category Innovation (General) - Central \_\_\_\_\_ UdeDesh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN).

### Sports News

1. Who has been appointed as the head coach of the Australian men's cricket team \_\_\_\_\_ **Andrew McDonald.**
2. In which category Sajjan Prakash has won gold \_\_\_\_\_ Men's 200m butterfly.
3. Which team has won the men's title in the 71st Senior National Basketball Championship after defeating Punjab \_\_\_\_\_ Tamil Nadu.



- Who has clinched the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament title in Castile-La Mancha, Spain \_\_\_\_\_ Grandmaster D. Gukesh.
- Harpreet Singh and SachinSahrawat have bagged bronze, are related to which sports \_\_\_\_\_ Wrestling.

### Books and Authors

- Who is the author of 'Hear Yourself' which has recently released for the Indian subcontinent in Mumbai \_\_\_\_\_ **Author Prem Rawat.**
- Who authored the book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution" which was released on the occasion of the 131st birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajesh Talwar.**

### Science and Defence

- What is the name a new laser missile-defense system of Israel which was successfully tested recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Iron Beam.**
- Which edition Joint Staff talks held between India-France in Paris, France on April 12-13, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **20th edition.**
- In which state the Trishakti Corps has organized EX KRIPAN SHAKTI \_\_\_\_\_ **Near Siliguri in West Bengal.**
- From which fighter aircraft the Indian Air Force(IAF) has successfully conducted a test-fire of the live firing of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile \_\_\_\_\_ **Su30- MKI fighter aircraft.**
- Which IIT has signed an MoU with Indian Air Force (IAF) for technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras.**
- In which place the Oil India Limited (OIL) has set up India's first 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen with an installed capacity of 10 kg per day \_\_\_\_\_ **Jorhat Pump Station in Assam.**
- Name the sixth and final Scorpene class submarine of the P75 project of the Indian Navy which was launched at Mazgaon Dock Ltd \_\_\_\_\_ **Vagsheer (sixth submarine, Yard 11880).**

### Banking & Financial Awareness

- What is the Retail inflation in India in March 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **6.95%.**
- Which country has signed an MoU with India to establish a Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing \_\_\_\_\_ Finland.
- Which bank has celebrated its 128th Foundation Day on April 12, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ Punjab National Bank.
- What would be India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year 2022-23 by World Bank \_\_\_\_\_ 8%.
- How much amount has been invested by the government in NICTL, OICL, UICL insurance companies \_\_\_\_\_ ₹5,000 crores.
- Which Cryptocurrency lender has joined hands with global payments company Mastercard to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card \_\_\_\_\_ Nexo.
- Who is the head of the advisory committee on enhancing the regulator's technology capacity and on exploring appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies by SEBI \_\_\_\_\_ Sunil Bajpai.
- Exports of Indian agricultural products have crossed a mark of how much billion dollar for 2021-22 with an increase of 20 per cent \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 billion.
- Which type of banks can open Digital Banking Units (DBUs) \_\_\_\_\_ Only Scheduled commercial banks.
- Which regulatory body has formed two separate expert panels to examine the eligibility criteria, roles, and functions of trustees and sponsors at asset management companies (AMCs) \_\_\_\_\_ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The government of India has signed USD 2 mn Project Readiness Financing Loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ Nagaland.
- On 8th April 2022, how many years have been completed of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) \_\_\_\_\_ seven years.



## PASSAGE BASED PRACTICE QUESTIONS

### Passage-01

**Direction (1-5):** Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

“X” has topped the list for larger States in the NITI Aayog's SECI–Round 1 that has ranked States and Union Territories (UTs) on six parameters including discoms' performance, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The States have been categorised based on size and geographical differences as larger and smaller States and UTs. The index is based on 2019–20 data.

“The SECI is the first index that aims to track the efforts made by States and UTs in the climate and energy sector...These parameters have been devised keeping in mind India's goals for climate change and clean energy transition,” the report said.

It said the SECI is the first step in this journey where States can explore and benchmark themselves on various parameters. For instance, in terms of energy efficiency, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have done well while in terms of DISCOM's performance, two small UTs — D&D and D&N — have done well. “The best practices for all indicators in better–performing States can be adopted by other States to improve their performance. The SECI will help States to understand their performance across multiple parameters/indicators,” it said.

**1. What is the full form of SECI?**

- A. State Efficiency and Consistency Index
- B. State Energy and Climate Index
- C. Systematic Energy and Consistency Index
- D. State Energy and Climate Indication

**2. Which of the following State, referred as “X” in the passage above has topped the list for larger States in the NITI Aayog's SEC Index?**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Punjab
- D. Madhya Pradesh

**3. Which of the following top three performers among smaller states in the index?**

- A. Goa, Tripura and Mizoram
- B. Goa, Tripura and Meghalaya

C. Goa, Tripura and Manipur

D. Goa, Tripura and Sikkim

**4. Which of the following state is placed at the bottom of the index?**

- A. Haryana
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Kerala

**5. As per the India's Climate Change Commitments, India will achieve the target of Net-zero carbon emission by which year?**

- A. 2030
- B. 2040
- C. 2060
- D. 2070



Passage-02

Direction (6-10): Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), while forecasting a 'A' southwest monsoon for this year also, revised downwards the definition of what constitutes average rainfall.

At a press briefing, the agency said India would get 99% of the long period average (LPA) rainfall — changed from 89 cm to 88 cm in 2018, and in the periodic update in 2022, again revised to 87 cm.

The IMD does not expect an El Nino, a phenomenon associated with a warming of the Central Pacific and drying up of the rains over northwest India, the coming monsoon. "Currently La Nina conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific. The latest forecasts indicate it will continue during the monsoon," the IMD stated.

The IMD does not expect an El Nino, a phenomenon associated with a warming of the Central Pacific and drying up of the rains over northwest India, the coming monsoon. "Currently La Nina conditions are prevailing over equatorial Pacific. The latest forecasts indicate it will continue during the monsoon," the weather body said. The IMD's April forecast doesn't indicate if some monsoon months will experience below normal rain or regional variations. This information is expected by the end of May.

6. According to IMD, the country will receive "A" rainfall for the fourth consecutive year. What is "A" as redacted in the passage?

- A. Abnormal
B. Deficient
C. Excess
D. Normal

7. IMD was established in the year of.

- A. 1995
B. 1985
C. 1875
D. 1895

8. India Meteorological Department works under which of the following ministry?

- A. Ministry of Earth Science
B. Ministry of Science and Technology

- C. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
D. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

9. In connection with weather forecasting, what is the full-form of LPA?

- A. Long Periodical Avionics
B. Long Positioning Alternative
C. Long Period Average
D. Large Particulates Arrangement

10. A monsoon is considered "normal" when rainfall falls between \_\_\_% and \_\_\_% of the LPA.

- A. 86% and 104%
B. 96% and 104%
C. 76% and 104%
D. 66% and 104%

###ANSWERS###

Table with 10 columns containing answers: 1. B, 2. A, 3. C, 4. B, 5. D, 6. D, 7. C, 8. A, 9. C, 10. B



# DAYS TO REMEMBER APRIL 2022

## World Autism Awareness Day 2nd April

World Autism Day is observed to create awareness about the disorder. It is celebrated by the United Nations every year on 2 April.

Theme: 'Inclusion in the Workplace'

## National Maritime Day 5th April

The day is dedicated to the role of maritime trade in the development of the Indian economy.

Theme: 'Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19'.

## World Health Day 7th April

It aims to discuss health-related issues and to draw attention to specific health issues concerning people across the world.

Theme: Our Planet, Our Health

## World Homeopathy Day 10th April

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, father of Homeopathy.

Theme: 'People's Choice For Wellness.'

## 11th of April National Safe Motherhood Day

To provide better medical care to reduce the maternal mortality. Kasturba Gandhi's birthday was designated as National Safe Motherhood Day by the Indian Government in 2003.

## Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 13th April

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place on April 13, 1919, when a group of peaceful protestors was gunned down in an enclosed park with only one exit.

## Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti 14th April

The birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is observed on April 14 and is also known as Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti.

He is also known as Father of Indian Constitution.

## World Hemophilia Day 2022 17th April

To raise awareness about hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.

Theme: "Access for All: Partnership.

## World Heritage Day 2022 18th April

To spread awareness about preserving the history, diversity, and vulnerability of world heritage sites and monuments.

Theme: 'Heritage and Climate'

# DAYS TO REMEMBER APRIL 2022

## National Civil Service Day 21st April

In 1947, on this day India's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly formed and newly appointed Administrative Service Officers.

**Earth Day: 22nd April**  
To create awareness about pollution and other activities which directly or indirectly results in the destruction of the planet.

Theme: 'Invest in our Planet.'

## World Book and Copyright Day 23d April

To promote awareness on the benefits of reading books.

Theme: "Read, so you never feel low".

English Language Day  
23rd April

## National Panchayati Raj Day 24th April

The day marks the enactment of the 73rd amendment of the constitution in 1992.

The day was first celebrated in April 2010.

## World Malaria Day 25th April

To highlight the prevention and controlling of malaria across the globe.

Theme: "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives."

## World Intellectual Property Day 26th April

To raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property (IP) rights in fostering innovation and creativity.

Theme: "IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future"

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

The day is dedicated to creating awareness and preventing occupational disease in addition to accidents across the world.

Theme: 'Act together to build a positive safety and health culture'.

## International Dance Day 29th April

To encourage people across the globe to cherish each other's dance forms.

Theme: Dance Your Way to Boost Physical and Mental Health.

## 30th April

**Ayushman Bharat Diwas**  
It is observed to uplift the ideals of the Ayushman Bharat Yojna

**World Veterinary Day**  
Theme: "Strengthening Veterinary Resilience".

# Get Your Choice of **Online Courses** for **CLAT Preparation**

## **Crash Course for CLAT 2022 (Batch-3)**

English

- Expert guidance by NLU alumni provided until the day of your exam
- Day-wise study plan covering the entire syllabus to help you score better
- Weekly Performance Tests
- Faculty Counseling & Guidance Sessions
- All topics covered through Live Classes & Quizzes



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## **CLAT 2023 Comprehensive Combo Course**

English

- 200+ (Including Non-CLAT) Live Classes
- Topic Tests, Sectional Tests and Mock Test PDFs
- Monthly E-Magazine on Current Events and Legal Affairs





# Prepare for CLAT & Other Law Entrance Exams

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**Live Interactive  
Classes**



**Expert Faculty  
from Top NLUs**



**Doubt  
Sessions**



**Weekly  
Performance  
Analysis**



**Practice Quizzes  
& Mock Tests**



**PDF Notes for  
Last Minute  
Revision**

