

Monthly Current Affairs April 2022



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Important News: State

Ropeways in Himachal Pradesh under the Parvatmala Yojana



- Union Minister for Road transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari along with Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur witnessed the signing of MoU between NHLML (National Highways Logistics Management Limited) and State Government of Himachal Pradesh for construction of Ropeways in Himachal Pradesh under the ambitious **Parvatmala Yojana**.
- This is a significant MoU which will facilitate a unique, eco-friendly, scenic and seamless travel experience for tourists. By leveraging world class technology, 7 ropeway projects of total length 57.1km at total cost of Rs 3,232 Crore will be constructed in the State.

About Parvatmala Yojana:

- Union Finance Minister, while presenting Union Budget for 2022-23 announced National Ropeways Development Programme “Parvatmala” will be taken up on PPP mode, which will be a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.
- The scheme is being presently started in regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir and the other North Eastern states.

Source: PIB

Shivamogga airport to be named after B S Yediyurappa

Why in News

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai recently announced that the under-construction Shivamogga airport will be named after former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa.



Key Points

- The proposal will now be sent to the civil aviation ministry.
- The airport will be ready for inauguration in December 2022.
- The project has been taken up under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) programme.
- The Shivamogga airport will have the 2nd longest runway in Karnataka after Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

Source: Indian Express

Tamil Nadu passes 2 bills to take away governor's powers to name VCs



Why in News

- The Tamil Nadu assembly passed two bills to amend the laws of 13 universities to transfer the power to appoint their vice-chancellors from the governor to the state government.

Key Points

- The proposed bills stress that “every appointment of the Vice-Chancellor shall be made by the Government from out of a panel of three names” recommended by a search-cum-selection committee.
- According to the UGC Regulations, 2018, the “Visitor/Chancellor” — mostly the Governor in states — shall appoint the VC out of the panel of names recommended by search-cum-selection committees.
- Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, the President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.
- Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor.
- The Vice Chancellor too is appointed by the Visitor from panels of names picked by search and selection committees formed by the Union government.

Note: Moreover, the Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi Commission constituted by the Centre in 2007 to look into Centre-state relations had recommended that governors should not be vested with the powers to appoint the VCs since "there would be a clash of functions and powers".

Source: TOI

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

About WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM):

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

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

Source: newsonair

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

Why in News?

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

Key Points

- It has been launched with the help of the Blind Relief Association Nagpur and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham).
- This concept was created as a substitute for audiobooks provided by Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal to the visually impaired on their digital devices, access to which was cut off due to the COVID-19 pandemic due to restrictions on travelling.



Source: TOI

PM Modi inaugurates Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit in Gujarat

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit on 20th April, 2022** at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



- The Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) were present on the occasion.

Key Points

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

- FSSAI has also announced a new category named 'AYUSH Aahar' in its regulations last week.

Note:

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

Source: newsonair

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

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

Note:

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

Source: TOI

India's first portable solar rooftop system unveiled in Gandhinagar



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- The installation of 10 PV Port systems in the temple complex has been supported by the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- The systems have been installed under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's initiative to develop renewable energy cities across India.
- The PV Ports have been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL), a leading maker of solar products under the Make in India project.

Source: Business Standard

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

- This plant is expected to increase its production of green hydrogen from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in future.

Source: The Hindu

Punjab-Haryana dispute over rivers waters and SYL Canal



Why in News

- The Haryana Vidhan Sabha has passed a resolution seeking completion of the **Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal**, bringing back into focus the contentious issue of sharing of river waters between Haryana and Punjab.

The river waters:

- The canal, once completed, will enable sharing of the waters of the rivers Ravi and Beas between the two states. The issue dates back to 1966 at the time of reorganisation of Punjab and formation of Haryana. Punjab was opposed to sharing the waters of the two rivers with Haryana, citing riparian principles.

The canal:

- On April 8, 1982, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi launched the construction of the SYL Canal with a groundbreaking ceremony in Kapoori village in Patiala district. A stretch of 214 km was to be constructed, out of which 122 km was to cross Punjab and 92 km in Haryana.

Punjab's argument:

- As per a state government study, many areas in Punjab may go dry after 2029. The state has already over-exploited its groundwater for irrigation purposes as it fills granaries of the Centre by growing wheat and paddy worth Rs 70,000 crore every year.

Haryana's claim:

- Haryana has been staking claim to the Ravi-Beas waters through the SYL Canal on the plea that providing water for irrigation was a tough task for the state. In southern parts, where underground water had depleted up to 1700 feet, there was a problem of drinking water.

Source: Indian Express

Punjab Assembly passes resolution seeking immediate transfer of Chandigarh to state



Why in News

- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann moved a resolution in the assembly seeking immediate transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab.
- The longstanding dispute between Punjab and Haryana over Chandigarh flared up after the Centre notified Central Service Rules for employees in the Union Territory instead of the Punjab Service Rules.

Key Points

- After Partition, Shimla was made the temporary capital of Indian Punjab.
- The capital was officially moved from Shimla to Chandigarh on September 21, 1953.
- The Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966 carved out the new state of Haryana from undivided Punjab, created the new Union Territory of Chandigarh under the direct control of the Centre, and transferred the hill territories of Punjab to Himachal Pradesh.
- Chandigarh, identified as the capital of Punjab in The Capital of Punjab (Development and Regulation) Act, 1952, became the common capital of both Punjab and Haryana, and properties were divided between the states in the ratio 60:40.

Source: Indian Express

Mumbai International Cruise Terminal to be commissioned by July 2024



Why in News

- The **Mumbai International Cruise Terminal**, the iconic sea cruise terminal coming up at BPX-Indira Dock, is expected to be commissioned by July 2024.
- This was informed by the Chairperson, Mumbai Port Authority, Rajiv Jalota on the occasion of completion of **7 years of Sagarmala** - Government of India's flagship programme for port-led development of the nation.

Key Points

- The terminal will have a capacity of handling 200 ships and 1 million passengers per annum.
- Out of the total project cost of Rs. 495 crore, Rs. 303 crores will be incurred by Mumbai Port Authority and the remaining by private operators.

Source: PIB

Aeromodelling show organized for the first time in Nagpur



- For the first time, an aeromodelling show was organized in Nagpur in collaboration with the Rashtriya Vidyarthi Sena, as well as various amateur aeromodellers' associations, on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.
- The aeromodelling show was inaugurated by Sports Minister Sunil Kedar. On this occasion a demonstration of horse riding was presented by the NCC team in order to inculcate the interest of horse riding in the children.
- In this, a demonstration of 20 different types of aeromodels was presented by the children of NCC and amateur aeromodelling.

Source: AIR

Assam and Meghalaya inter-state border dispute



Why in News

- In presence of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a historic agreement was signed in New Delhi by the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma, and the Chief Minister, Meghalaya Conrad K. Sangma, for settlement of the interstate boundary between the States of Assam and Meghalaya, in respect of 6 out of 12 areas of difference.

Key Points

- Since July last year, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad Sangma have been in talks to resolve the long-standing dispute along its 884-km-long border.
- While there are 12 areas of dispute between the two states, in July 2021, both governments identified six areas (Hahim, Gizang, Tarabari, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilingkata, Ratacherra) for resolution in the first phase.

Source: Indian Express

Gujarat gets India's first 'steel road'



Why in News

- The Diamond City of India, Surat, Gujarat has become the first in India to get a road that is made out of steel waste.

Key Points

- Built by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) along with the government think tank NITI Aayog, the steel slag road is a stellar example of sustainable development.
- Millions of tonnes of steel slag are produced by steel industries and these have had no alternate use thus far.

Source: ET

Important News: India

PM Modi holds bilateral talks with British PM Boris Johnson



Why in News

- Recently, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited in India. This was his maiden visit to India as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with British PM Boris Johnson.

Key Points

- India and United Kingdom have decided to do their best to conclude the Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2022.
- India and UK had launched an ambitious Roadmap-2030 to guide the bilateral relationship in this decade.
- India and UK are launching a virtual Hydrogen Science and Innovation hub to accelerate affordable green hydrogen, as well as new funding for the Green Grids Initiative announced at COP26, and collaboration on joint work on the electrification of public transport across India.
- They emphasized maintaining the Indo-Pacific region based on free, open, inclusive, and rules-based order.
- PM Modi welcomed UK's decision to join Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- Both sides also agreed on intensifying operations in countering threats in new domains like cyber security, space, and artificial intelligence as well as on strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism and addressing violent extremism and radicalism.

Source: Indian Express

India-EU strategic partnership

- PM Narendra Modi held talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi.



Key Points

- Prime Minister Modi and Ms Leyen reviewed progress in the **India-EU strategic partnership** and agreed to deepen cooperation in areas of trade, climate, digital technology and people to people ties.
- They reviewed the progress in the forthcoming re-commencement of negotiations on a **Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement**.
- They announced the establishment of an **India-EU Trade and Technology Council**.
- Both leaders noted the increasing policy convergences on Indo-Pacific and exchanged views on other regional and global issues of mutual interest including cooperation in WTO, G-20, Afghanistan and Myanmar.

Facts about the European Union (EU):

- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium

- **Founded:** 1 November 1993
 - **Members Countries:** 27
- Source:** PIB

Ministry of Civil Aviation organises “Yog Prabha”



Why in News

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen VK Singh (Rtd) inaugurated the mega '**Yog Prabha**' event at Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) organised “Yog Prabha”.

Key Points

- Over 900 officials of MoCA and its Attached organizations/PSU/Autonomous bodies participated in this mega event.

About International Day of Yoga:

- At the initiative of the PM Narendra Modi, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** took a historic decision in 2014 to declare **21st June as the International Day of Yoga (IDY)**.

Source: ET

AAHAR 2022



Why in News

- The **Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** is co-organising the 36th edition of Asia’s biggest B2B

international food and hospitality fair **AAHAR 2022** in association with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).

- It is being organised from April 26-30, 2022 at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi).

Key Points

- More than 80 exporters from different segments of agricultural products, which include GI products, processed food, organic, frozen food products, millets, etc are participating.
- As per the DGCI&S data, the agricultural exports have grown by 19.92 percent during 2021-22 to touch \$50.21 billion.

Source: ET

'Kisan Bhagidari-Prathmikta Hamari' campaign



Why in News

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is organizing the '**Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari**' campaign from 25th April to 30th April 2022 under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in association with various other Ministries & Departments of the Government of India.

Key Points

- During the week-long campaign, Agriculture Minister will also launch a country-wide workshop on crop insurance organized by the Common Service Centre.
- Krishi Mela at each Krishi Vigyan Kendra is also being organised.
- The campaign also highlights the achievements and activities under various flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.
- As a part of the 'Kisan Bhagidari-Prathmikta Hamari' Campaign, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME)** Scheme, organized the **One District One Product (ODOP)** -based workshop on the Processing and Value addition of Walnuts in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

Source: newsonair

90th anniversary of Sivagiri Pilgrimage and Golden Jubilee of Brahma Vidhyalaya



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the inaugural ceremony of year-long joint celebrations of the **90th anniversary of Sivagiri Pilgrimage and Golden Jubilee of Brahma Vidhyalaya** at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg.
- He also launched the logo for year-long joint celebrations.

Key Points

- Both **Sivagiri Pilgrimage** and **Brahma Vidhyalaya** were started with the blessing and guidance of great social reformer Shri Narayana Guru.

About Sivagiri Pilgrimage:

- Sivagiri is an area in Varkala municipality of Trivandrum District in Kerala.
- It is a pilgrimage centre of Varkala Town where the tomb or samadhi of Shri Narayana Guru is situated.

Source: PIB

Raisina Dialogue 2022



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the inaugural session of **Raisina Dialogue 2022** where President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula Von Der Leyen delivered the keynote address.

Key Points

- The seventh edition of The Raisina Dialogue 2022 is being held in-person in New Delhi from 25 April to 27 April 2022.
- The **theme** for **Raisina Dialogue 2022** is "**Terra Nova: Impassioned, Impatient, and Imperilled**".
- There are six broad thematic pillars of the Dialogue including Rethinking Democracy, End of Multilateralism, Water Caucuses, Achieving Green Transitions.

About Raisina Dialogue:

- It is a multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi.
- The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think tank, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

Source: newsonair

MoU between CSIR and iCreate to harness India's tech strength



Why in News

- The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel presided over the MoU signing between the Government of Gujarat's flagship technology incubator - **iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology)** and the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

Key Points

- Under the MoU, CSIR and iCreate intend to establish a collaborative support system for promising tech start-ups by making combined resources available for entrepreneurs and innovators in the country.
- Such start-ups will access CSIR's equipment, facilities, and scientific manpower.
- CSIR will provide intellectual property support and explore methods of financially supporting innovative start-ups from India to boost emerging entrepreneurs.

About iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology):

- It is an autonomous centre of excellence of the Government of Gujarat and is India's largest institution for transforming start-ups based on tech innovation into successful businesses.
- To date it has supported over 412 innovations and 30+ patents with a high-touch, entrepreneur first model, connecting them with mentors, markets and money.

Source: PIB

Centre scraps MP quota in Kendriya Vidyalayas



Why in News

- The central government has scrapped the discretionary Member of Parliament (MP) quota for admissions to **Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)**, and issued revised admission guidelines.

Key Points

- Under the KVS Special Dispensation Admission Scheme, or MP quota, a Member of Parliament had the power to recommend a maximum of 10 students from their respective constituencies in every academic year for admissions in classes 1 to 9.
- Other than the MP quota, the KVS has also removed other reservations, including 100 children of education ministry employees, children and dependent grandchildren of MPs and retired KV employees, and discretionary quota of school management committee chairman, among others.
- The new quotas included 50 seats for the wards of group B and C central police organisations such as the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, CISF, NDRF, and Assam Rifles under the Union ministry of home affairs, posted for internal security, border postings.
- Besides, the KVS has also officially included children covered under the PM CARES scheme under the provisions.

Source: HT

Covaxin, Corbevax get emergency use nod for children below 12 years



Why in News

- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** grants Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) to Corbevax for those aged 5-12, Covaxin for 6-12 age group and Zycov-D for those above 12 years.
- **World Immunization Week 2022** is being celebrated from 24th to 30th April 2022. The theme of 2022 is 'Long Life for All'.

Source: ET

GoI-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-27

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

Source: PIB

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

Financial implications:

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

Major impact including employment generation potential:

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

Background:

- The then Finance Minister, in his budget speech for 2016-17, announced the launch of new restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), for developing governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In compliance of this announcement and the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman-NITI Aayog, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of RGSA was approved by the Union Cabinet on 21.04.2018 for implementation from Financial Year 2018-19 to 2021-22 (01.04.2018 to 31.03.2022).

Source: PIB

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

Colour blindness:

- Colour blindness, also known as colour deficiency, is the inability to see colours in the normal way.

- Colour blind individuals often cannot distinguish between certain colours — usually greens and reds, and sometimes blues as well.
- Two types of cells in the retina detect light — the “rods”, which distinguish between light and dark, and the “cones” that detect colour.
- There are three types of cones that see colour — red, green, and blue — and our brains use the information from these cells to perceive colour.
- Colour blindness can be the result of the absence of one or more of these cone cells, or their failure to work properly.
- Colour blindness may be of different kinds and degrees.

Causes:

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

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

Source: Indian Express

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- The policy provides for utilisation of such land for the purpose of development and setting up of infrastructure relating to coal and energy.
- The CBA Act provides for acquisition of coal bearing lands and their vesting in Government companies, free from any encumbrance.
- The approved policy provides a clear policy framework for utilisation of following types of lands acquired under the CBA Act: Lands no longer suitable or economically viable for coal mining activities; or Lands from which coal has been mined out / de-coaled and such land has been reclaimed.

- The Government coal companies, such as Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries shall remain owners of these lands acquired under the CBA Act and the policy allows only leasing of the land for the specified purposes given in the policy.

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

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

Source: HT

India's National Cyber Security Strategy



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Need for a National Cyber Security Strategy:

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

Present Government Initiatives for Cyber Security:

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

Source: The Hindu

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- The new portals will benefit farmers, exporters as well as industrialists.
- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DAFW), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQS), Faridabad has been catering to Indian exporters and importers of agriculture commodities and Indian Pesticide Industry, through its two portals namely, Computerized Registration of pesticide (CROP) and Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS).
- The PQMS portal will provide a transparent system with no physical touch points for the applicants and ensure convenience to the users, through an online system including e-payments and uploading of documents, online accreditation and renewal of treatment agencies/facilities and downloading of certificates.
- Similarly, the re-developed CROP portal will immensely help in ease of doing business and provide greater and timely Crop protection solutions to farmers of the country.

Source: newsonair

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

About Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967:

- It is an Indian law aimed at prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Its main objective was to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.
- The most recent amendment of the law, the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 (UAPA 2019)** has made it possible for the Union Government to designate individuals as terrorists without a due process of law.
- UAPA is also known as the Anti-terror law.

Source: newsonair

Centre extends ceasefire pact with 3 Naga groups by a year



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

27, 2023 with NSCN-NK and NSCN-R, and from April 18, 2022 to April 17, 2023 with NSCN-K-Khango.

Note:

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

Other related Peace Agreements:

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

Source: Indian Express

NITI Aayog releases Draft Battery Swapping Policy

Why in News?

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



Key Points

About Draft Battery Swapping Policy:

- Under this Policy, all metropolitan cities with a population above 40 lakh will be prioritised for development of battery swapping network under the first phase.
- All major cities such as state capitals, UT headquarters and cities with population above 5 lakh will be covered under the second phase, given the importance of the two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicle segments in growing cities.
- Vehicles with swappable batteries will be sold without a battery, providing the benefit of lower purchase costs to potential EV owners.

Note:

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

Linked Incentive (PLI) for National Programme on Advanced Cell (ACC) Battery Storage (NPACC), to boost indigenous battery manufacturing capacity.

Source: ET

Comprehensive Training Program on Natural Farming



Why in News

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the **Comprehensive Training Program on Natural Farming**, organized by the **National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)**, Hyderabad.

About MANAGE:

- MANAGE was established in 1987, as the National Centre for Management of Agricultural Extension at Hyderabad, by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India as an autonomous Institute.
- MANAGE is the Indian response to challenges of agricultural extension in a rapidly growing and diverse agriculture sector.

Source: PIB

‘One Health’ pilot project



Why in News

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India has launched a pilot project in the state of Uttarakhand to implement the **One Health** Framework by One Health Support Unit.

One Health Concept:

- One Health is an approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

- One Health' vision derives its blueprint from the agreement between the tripartite-plus alliance comprising the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).
- The key objective of the Unit is to develop a national One Health roadmap based on the learnings of the pilot project implementation.

Source: PIB

Chhattisgarh ranks first in the country with the lowest unemployment rate



Why in News

- Chhattisgarh has been ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate in the country.
- According to the **latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**, Chhattisgarh has registered an unemployment rate of 0.6 percent this March, which is the lowest so far.

Key Points

- As per the data, Haryana has the highest unemployment rate at 26.7 percent, followed by Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir at 25 percent each and Jharkhand at 14.5 percent.
- Chhattisgarh ranks first in the country with the lowest unemployment rate while the country's unemployment rate stood at 7.6 percent in the same month (March).

Source: Indian Express

'XE' variant of coronavirus



Why in News

- Recently, The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced that a 50-year-old woman with a travel history to South Africa may have been infected with the **newly-discovered 'XE' variant of the coronavirus**.

- XE, a sub-variant of Omicron, which caused the third wave of Covid-19 this winter, had not been found in India until now.

XE variant of coronavirus:

- The Omicron variant, which is responsible for over 90 per cent of the infections detected this year, has two prominent sub-variants, called BA.1 and BA.2. There is a BA.3 sub-variant as well, but that is less common.

Source: Indian Express

De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes



Why in News

- Recently, a standing committee of Parliament has criticised the functioning of the development programme for de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes.
- The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, headed by BJP Lok Sabha MP Rama Devi, tabled its 31st report in Parliament.
- The report said the “Committee are constrained to note that the Scheme for economic empowerment of DNT communities formulated to provide coaching, health insurance, facilitate livelihood and financial assistance for construction of homes for the members of DNT, with total outlays of Rs 200 crore for the period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 and the Department could not spend even a single rupee in 2021-22.

De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes:

- These are communities who are the most vulnerable and deprived.
- Denotified tribes (DNTs) are communities that were ‘notified’ as being ‘born criminal’ during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.
- Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities are defined as those who move from one place to another rather than living at one place all the time.

Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT):

- A National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted in 2006 by the then government.
- The Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC) was constituted on February 21, 2019 under the chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idate.

Source: Indian Express

Approval for five new sites for locating nuclear power plants



Why in News

- Recently, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said in Lok Sabha that the Government has accorded 'In-Principle' approval for five new sites for locating nuclear power plants in future.

Key Points

- The Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of 10 indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up in fleet mode.
- On progressive completion of the projects under construction and accorded sanction, the nuclear capacity is expected to reach **22480 MW by 2031**.
- There are presently 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation and one reactor, KAPP-3 (700 MW) has been connected to the grid on January 10, 2021.

Source: newsonair

Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committee Performance Monitoring System



Why in News

- Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the '**Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees (DGCs) Performance Monitoring System**' (GDPMS).
- DGC Digital Dashboard will go a long way in establishing a people-river connect and will play an important role in the success of **Namami Gange Programme**.

About District Ganga Committees:

- District Ganga Committees were constituted in the districts on the Ganga River basin for putting in place a mechanism at the district level to ensure people's participation in management and pollution abatement in river Ganga and its tributaries.

Source: PIB

PM Narendra Modi holds talks with Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba held delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 2 April 2022.

Key Points

- This is Prime Minister Deuba's first bilateral visit abroad since assuming office for the fifth time in July last year.
- Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old “Roti Beti” relationship.
- Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Source: Business Standard

Central govt exempts genome edited crops from stringent GM regulations



Why in News

- The Central government has for the first time issued an order exempting certain types of genome edited crops from the stringent regulations applicable on **genetically modified or GM crops** thus giving a big boost to their further research and development.

Key Points

- The Ministry of Environment and Forest in an order issued recently, exempted SDN1 and SDN2 genome edited plants from Rules 7-11 of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) for

manufacture, use or import or export and storage of hazardous microorganisms or genetically engineered organisms or cells rules-1989.

- Genome editing or gene editing was discovered back in 2012, but Indian regulators took nearly a decade to comprehend its potential for developing crops resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses and with nutritional superiority.

Genome editing:

- A decade ago, scientists in Germany and the US discovered a technique which allowed them to 'cut' DNA strands and edit genes. For agriculture scientists this process allowed them to bring about desired changes in the genome by using site directed nuclease (SDN) or sequence specific nuclease (SSN).

Source: Business Standard

Broadcast Seva Portal for broadcasters launched



Why in News

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur launched the **Broadcast Seva Portal** in New Delhi.

About Broadcast Seva Portal:

- Broadcast Seva Portal is an online portal solution for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licenses, permissions, registrations, etc.
- It will reduce the turnaround time of applications and at the same time will help applicants track the progress.
- It will boost the business environment and empower the entire broadcast sector by directly benefiting more than 900 Satellite TV Channels, 70 Teleport operators, 1700 Multi-service operators, 350 Community Radio Stations (CRS), 380 Private FM Channels and others.

Source: HT

Railway Protection Force: Operation Upalabdh



Why in News

- Recently, **RPF (Railway Protection Force)** conducted a Pan India Drive against the touts under **Operation Upalabdh**.

About Operation Upalabdh:

- The month long drive under Operation Upalabdh has been able to curb the activities of touts substantially and make railway tickets available to the common man.
- Indian Railways advises the common public not to procure tickets from unauthorised persons as it is not only likely to be forfeited once detected, but may also land the buyer in legal trouble.

About Railway Protection Force (RPF):

- RPF is a security force under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India established by the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.
- In February 2022, the RPF had launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking named **Operation AAHT**.

Source: PIB

5th Pariksha Pe Charcha Programme



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with students on the subject of upcoming exams on 01 April 2022 in the 5th Pariksha Pe Charcha Programme.

Key Points

- The programme was organised at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi, where school students of grades 9th to 12th, parents, and teachers had interaction with the Prime Minister.

- The program was organised by the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy.
- First edition of the Pariksha Pe Charcha was held on February 16, 2018.

Source: HT

CJI N V Ramana launches FASTER software to transmit court orders swiftly



Why in News

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

Key Points

- The FASTER system is developed by the Registry in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre.
- To reach all districts of India through this system, so far 73 nodal officers have been nominated at various levels.
- All nodal officers have been connected through a specific Judicial Communication Network (JCN) by creating a secured pathway.

Note: The Supreme Court has also launched other programmes involving technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal 'SUPACE' in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research.

Source: Indian Express

Government of India reduces disturbed areas under AFSPA in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur



Why in News

- The Government of India has reduced disturbed areas under **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)** in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur after decades.
- In comparison to 2014, there has been a reduction of 74 percent in militancy incidents in 2021.

Key Points

- The Disturbed Area Notification is in force in whole of Assam since 1990. Due to the significant improvement in the situation, now AFSPA is being removed with effect from 01.04.2022 completely from 23 districts and partially from 1 district of Assam.
- The Disturbed Area Declaration is in force in the entire Manipur (except Imphal Municipality area) since 2004. 15 police station areas of 6 districts of Manipur will be excluded from the Disturbed Area Notification with effect from 01.04.2022.
- The Disturbed Area Notification is in force in the whole of Nagaland from 1995. The Disturbed Area Notification is being withdrawn from 15 police stations in 7 districts in Nagaland with effect from 01.04.2022.

Source: Indian Express

The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022



Why in News

- Recently, the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha.

Key Points

- The Bill seeks to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 passed by Parliament.

- The Act was amended in 2011 by Delhi Legislative Assembly to trifurcate the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi into: (i) North Delhi Municipal Corporation, (ii) South Delhi Municipal Corporation, and (iii) East Delhi Municipal Corporation.
- The Bill seeks to unify the three corporations.

About Municipal Corporation:

- In India, the Municipal Corporation is the urban local government that is responsible for the development of any Metropolitan City having a population of more than one million people.
- The first municipal corporation in India was created in Madras in 1688, followed by municipal corporations in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726.

Source: Indian Express

Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata



Why in News

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the ten-day mega **Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata** (25th March, 2022- 3rd April, 2022) at the iconic 17th- century monument, Red Fort in Delhi.

Key Points

- The Red Fort festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata is being organised by the Ministry of Culture.
- More than 70 master craftsmen have displayed their craftsmanship at the venue.
- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, along with **Red Fort's "Monument Mitra", Dalmia Bharat Ltd.** have conceptualized the mega event as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Source: PIB

Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022



Why in News

- Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Misra Teni, introduced the **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022** in the Lok Sabha.

Key Points

- The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022 authorises law enforcement agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters.
- The Bill seeks to repeal The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 whose scope was limited to taking recording finger impressions and foot-print impressions of a limited category of convicted and non-convicted persons and photographs on the order of a Magistrate.
- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be the repository of physical and biological samples, signature and handwriting data that can be preserved for at least 75 years.
- Resistance to or refusal to allow the taking of measurements under this Act shall be deemed to be an offence under section 186 of the Indian Penal Codes.

Source: The Hindu

National Commission for Women launches Legal Services Clinic



Why in News

- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** in collaboration with **Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLSA)** has launched a legal aid clinic.

Key Points

- NCW is also planning to set up similar legal services clinics in other State Commissions for Women.

About National Commission for Women:

- It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act.

- Rekha Sharma is the current chairperson.

Source: newsonair

States can identify minorities: Centre



Why in News

- In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs said “state governments can also declare a religious or linguistic community as a ‘minority community’ within the state”.

Key Points

- The affidavit was filed in response to a 2020 petition by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who said that as per the 2011 Census, Hindus were a minority in Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, J&K, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Punjab and that they should be given minority status in these states in accordance with the principle laid down by the Supreme Court in its 2002 TMA Pai ruling.

Centre's Stand:

- The Centre gave the example of how Maharashtra notified ‘Jews’ as a minority community within the State. Again, Karnataka notified Urdu, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Tulu, Lambadi, Hindi, Konkani and Gujarati as minority languages within the State.

Minorities notified by the Government of India:

- Parliament has the legislative competence and the Central government has the executive competence to notify a community as a minority under Section 2(c) of the **National Commission for Minorities Act of 1992**.
- The Central government notified six communities, namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains, as minorities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act of 1992.

Source: Indian Express

Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022



Why in News

- The Rajya Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2022**.

Key Points

- The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to omit Bhogta community from the list of Scheduled Castes in Jharkhand and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 for inclusion of certain communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in the State.
- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Upper House of Parliament on February 7, 2022.
- **Note:** Earlier, Lok Sabha passed a bill to include the 'Darlong' community as a sub-tribe of the 'Kuki' in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tripura.

Source: TOI

Malabar Rebellion



Why in News

- Recently, the **Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR)** has deferred its decision on a recommendation to remove the **1921 Malabar Rebellion martyrs** including Variamkunnaathu Kunhahamad Haji and Ali Musliyar from the list of India's freedom fighters.

Key Points

- The **Malabar rebellion**, Moplah massacre, Moplah riots or Mappila riots occurred between August 1921 and 1922 in the southern part of the Malabar district of the Madras Presidency.

About Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR):

- It is a captive body of the Ministry of Education established by an Administrative Order.
- It provides financial assistance to historians and scholars through fellowships, grants, and symposia.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: World

India's Russian Crude buy since Ukraine conflict double than 2021 purchase



- India has bought more than twice as much crude oil from Russia in the two months since its invasion of Ukraine as it did in the whole of 2021.
- India has taken advantage of discounted prices to ramp up oil imports from Russia at a time when global energy prices have been rising.

Key Points

- After the US and China, India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil, over 80% of which is imported.

Source: BBC

Elon Musk acquires Twitter for \$44 billion



Why in News

- American billionaire Elon Musk reached an agreement to buy Twitter for roughly \$44 billion.

Key Points

- The deal, which was unanimously approved by Twitter's board, is expected to close this year. Under the deal, Twitter's shares will be delisted and it will be taken private.

About Twitter:

- Twitter is an American microblogging and social networking service on which users post and interacts with messages known as "tweets".
- **CEO:** Parag Agrawal

Source: Indian Express

European Union (EU) Digital Services Act (DSA)



Why in News

- The European Parliament and European Union (EU) Member States announced that they had reached a political agreement on the **Digital Services Act (DSA)**.

Key Points

- **Digital Services Act (DSA)** is a landmark legislation to force big Internet companies to act against disinformation and illegal and harmful content, and to “provide better protection for Internet users and their fundamental rights”.
- It will apply to a “large category of online services, from simple websites to Internet infrastructure services and online platforms.”

Background:

- The Commission made its proposal on the **Digital Services Act** on 15 December 2020, together with the proposal for the **Digital Markets Act**, on which the European Parliament and Council reached a political agreement on 22 March 2022.

Source: Indian Express

Border Haat at India-Bangladesh border



Why in News

- The **Border Haat** at India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya was opened after a gap of two years.

Key Points

- The decision to open the Border Haat between Balat in East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya and Lauwaghar at Dalora in Sunamganj District of Bangladesh was taken by the Joint Border Haat Management Committee.

- At present, India and Bangladesh have seven established Border Haats and nine more new Border Haats are in the pipeline.
- **Border Haats** enable local residents on both sides of the border to trade the local produce.
- As of 2021, India has border Haats only with 4 of its BIMSTEC neighbours, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal.

Source: newsonair

India gets elected to four UN ECOSOC bodies

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

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

About Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

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

Source: India Today

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Countries on the list:

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

Statutes authorising designation:

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

Source: Indian Express

Mauritius PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth visited in India



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- India and Mauritius enjoy uniquely close ties, bound by shared history, culture and heritage.

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

Note:

- In March 2022, Mauritius became a member of the Colombo Security Conclave, a grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The grouping of NSAs from these countries works for regional security by focusing on areas such as maritime security, countering terrorism, combating trans-national crime and cyber security.
- Earlier in January 2022, PM Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth had jointly inaugurated the India-assisted social housing units project in Mauritius virtually. They also launched the Civil Service College and 8 MW Solar PV Farm project in Mauritius that is being undertaken under India's development support.

Source: Indian Express

Yemeni president Abdrabbuh Hadi steps down under Saudi pressure



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Facts about Yemen:

- Yemen, officially the Republic of Yemen, is a country in Western Asia, on the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula.

- **Capital:** Sana'a
- **Currency:** Yemeni rial

Source: Business Standard

Forbes World's Billionaires List 2022



Why in News

- Recently, Forbes has released the 36th Annual World's Billionaires List 2022.
- Elon Musk has topped the list for the first time.

Top 3 on the Forbes World's Billionaires List 2022:

Rank	Name	Net Worth	Source of wealth
1	Elon Musk	\$219 billion	Tesla, SpaceX
2	Jeff Bezos	\$171 billion	Amazon
3	Bernard Arnault & family	\$158 billion	LVMH

- Forbes found 2,668 billionaires around the globe for the 2022 World's Billionaires list, down from a record 2,755 last year.
- Collectively, they're worth \$12.7 trillion, down from a record \$13.1 trillion on the 2021 list.
- The U.S. still reigns supreme, with 735 billionaire citizens, 11 more than in 2021.
- **India's Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman of RIL has ranked 10th position on the global list with a net worth of \$90.7 billion.

Source: forbes.com

India contributes \$500,000 to UN Women



Why in News

- **India** has contributed USD 500,000 to the **UN Women**, the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment.

Key Points

- The amount was handed over by T. S. Tirumurti, India's permanent representative to the UN to Dr. Sima Bahous, UN Women Executive Director.

About UN Women:

- UN Women is a United Nations agency committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.
- The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, founded in 1976) and other organisations merged to form UN Women, which began operations in January 2011.

Source: ndtv

President Kovind holds bilateral talks with his Turkmenistan



Why in News

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** and his Turkmenistan counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov held delegation-level talks at Oguzhar palace Ashgabat and exchanged views on various regional and international issues.
- This is the first-ever visit of the President of India to independent Turkmenistan and comes just after the inauguration of new Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov.
- A postage stamp commemorating 30 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Turkmenistan was also released.

Key Points

- India and Turkmenistan signed four agreements, including in financial intelligence and disaster management.

- The two leaders highlighted the significance of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Ashgabat Agreement on International Transport and Transit Corridor.
- President Kovind pointed out that the Chabahar port built by India in Iran could be used to improve trade between India and Central Asia.
- On the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline, President Kovind suggested that issues related to security of the pipeline and key business principles may be addressed in Technical and Expert level meetings.

Source: Indian Express

India and Australia sign Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement



Why in News

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Government of Australia, Dan Tehan signed the **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA)**, in a virtual ceremony in presence of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison.

Salient features of India-Australia ECTA:

- The India-Australia ECTA is the first trade agreement of India with a developed country after more than a decade.
- The Agreement encompasses cooperation across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries, and covers areas like Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Customs Procedures, Pharmaceutical products, and Cooperation in other Areas.

Note:

- Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's 9th largest trading partner.
- India and Australia are partners in the trilateral **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)** arrangement along with Japan which seeks to enhance the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Source: PIB

Bucharest Nine (B9)



Why in News

- Recently, the **Bucharest Nine** rejected the Russian claim about the eastward “expansion” of **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)**.
- They underlined that North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is not an organisation that “expanded” to the east”, rather, these countries as the independent European states that decided on our own to go west.

About Bucharest Nine (B9):

- It is a group of nine NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War.
- It was founded on November 4, 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania.
- The group was created on the initiative of Klaus Iohannis, who has been President of Romania since 2014, and Andrzej Duda, who became President of Poland in August 2015, at the High-Level Meeting of the States from Central and Eastern Europe in Bucharest.

Composition:

- The B9 member states include Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- All members of the B9 are part of the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Source: Indian Express

WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine



Why in News

- The Ministry of Ayush has signed the Host Country Agreement with **World Health Organization (WHO)** for establishing **WHO Global Centre for Traditional**

Medicine (WHO-GCTM) in India at Jamnagar, Gujarat, with its interim office at the Institute of Training and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) in Gujarat.

- The Agreement was signed in Geneva by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Director General, WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Key Points

- This Centre will be supported by an investment of about USD 250 million from the Government of India.
- GCTM will be the first and only Global Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
- It will focus on building a solid evidence base for policies and standards on traditional medicine practices and products and help countries integrate it as appropriate into their health systems and regulate its quality and safety for optimal and sustainable impact.
- Groundbreaking ceremony will take place on 21st April, 2022 in the august presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Source: PIB

CEPA Agreement between India and UAE



Why in News

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry announced the unveiling of the **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** on 28 March 2022 during his visit to the UAE.
- Shri Goyal is in UAE to participate in 'Investopia Summit' and 'World Government Summit' being held in Dubai on 28th March 2022 and 29th March 2022 respectively.

Key Points

- India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit held between Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Executive Council.
- Note: The UAE is also the 8th largest investor in India with an estimated investment of US\$ 18 billion.

Source: Business Standard

TEJAS skilling project at Dubai Expo



Why in News

- Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched **TEJAS (Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills)** at Dubai Expo 2020, a Skill India International Project to train overseas Indians.

Key Points

- The project is aimed at skilling, certification and overseas employment of Indians.
- Tejas is aimed at creating pathways to enable the Indian workforce to get equipped for skill and market requirements in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Tejas aims at creating a 10,000 strong Indian workforce in UAE during the initial phase.

Source: HT

5th BIMSTEC Summit



Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the **5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit** on 30 March 2022 hosted in virtual mode by Sri Lanka, the current chair of BIMSTEC.

Key Points

- The Summit's **theme** was "Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People".
- Prime Minister Modi along with other leaders also witnessed the signing of three BIMSTEC agreements which represent progress being achieved in ongoing cooperation activities:
 - (i) BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
 - (ii) BIMSTEC Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Diplomatic Training
 - (iii) Memorandum of Association on Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility

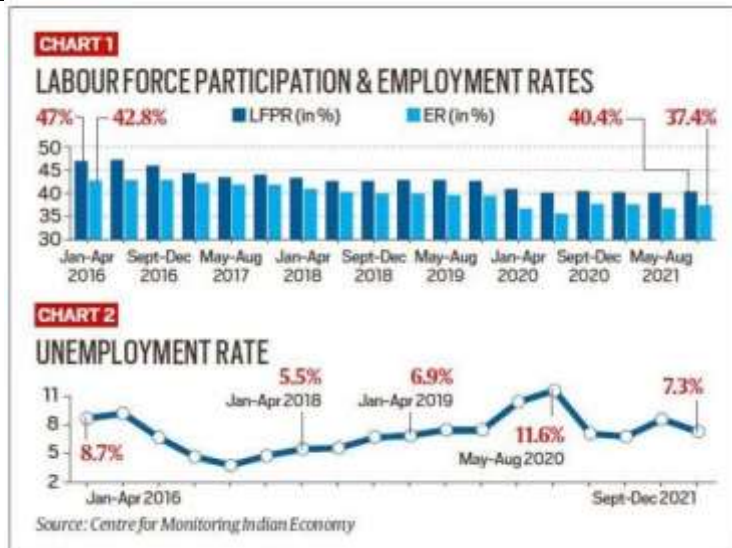
Facts about BIMSTEC:

- **Headquarters:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

- **Founded:** 6 June 1997
 - **Member:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Source:** newsonair

Important News: Economy

India's labour force participation rate (LFPR)



- Data from the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)** shows that **India's labour force participation rate (LFPR)** has fallen to just 40% from an already low 47% in 2016.

Key Points

- This suggests not only that more than half of India's population in the working-age group (15 years and older) is deciding to sit out of the job market, but also that this proportion of people is increasing.
- The LFPR essentially is the percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population that is asking for a job; it represents the "demand" for jobs in an economy.
- It includes those who are employed and those who are unemployed.
- The Unemployment Rate (UER) is nothing but the number of unemployed (category 2) as a proportion of the labour force.
- The world over, LFPR is around 60%. In India, it has been sliding over the last 10 years and has shrunk from 47% in 2016 to just 40% as of December 2021.

Source: Indian Express

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Source: Business Standard

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Note: Earlier, the World Bank has cut India's GDP forecast for FY22-23 to 8 percent.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also sharply cut India's growth projection at

7.2 percent for FY22-23, while the second advance estimate of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had said that GDP growth would be 8.9 percent.

Facts about International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- **Formation:** 27 December 1945
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., U.S.
- **Membership:** 190 countries
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva
- **First Deputy Managing Director:** Gita Gopinath

Source: TOI

Government amends FEMA rules to allow 20% FDI in LIC

Why in News?

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

Key Points

- The government is planning to dilute its stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO).
-



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

- Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, (LIC Act) as amended from time to time and such provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, as amended from time to time, as are applicable to LIC.

About Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA):

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

Source: Business Standard

Central Government amends Nidhi Rules, 2014

Why in News?

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

Key Points

- Under the Companies Act, 1956, a **Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society** meant a company which the Central Government declared as Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society by notification in the official gazette.



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- Under the Companies Act, 2013, initially there was no need for a company to get declaration from Central Government to function as a Nidhi Company.
- Such companies were required to only incorporate as a Nidhi and meet requirements under sub-rule (1) of rule 5 of Nidhi Rules viz., minimum membership of 200, Net Owned Fund of Rs. 10 lakh, NOF to deposit ratio of 1:20 and keeping 10% unencumbered deposits in schedule commercial banks or post offices within one year of commencement of Nidhi Rules, 2014.
- After the amendment in the Companies Act, 2013 w.e.f. 15.08.2019 and resultant amendments in Nidhi Rules, 2014 w.e.f. 15.08.2019, companies incorporated as Nidhis were required to apply to the Central Government in Form NDH-4 for declaration within 14 months of incorporation, if they were incorporated after the commencement of the Nidhi (Amendment) Rules w.e.f. 15.08.2019 and within 09 months of commencement of the Nidhi (Amendment) Rules w.e.f. 15.08.2019, if they were incorporated as Nidhis after 2014 but prior to 15.08.2019.

Note:

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

Source: PIB

India Post Payments Bank launches 'Fincluvation'

Why in News?

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



Key Points

About Fincluvation:

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

About India Post Payments Bank (IPPB):

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

Source: PIB

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)



- So far, India has signed 13 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with its trading partners, including the 3 agreements, namely India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), India-UAE Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) signed during the last five years.

The list of FTAs signed by India:

SN	Name of the Agreement
1	India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
2	Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Afghanistan)
3	India-Nepal Treaty of Trade
4	India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit
5	India-Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)
6	India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
7	India-ASEAN CECA - Trade in Goods, Services and Investment Agreement (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam)
8	India-South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
9	India-Japan CEPA
10	India-Malaysia CECA
11	India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)
12	India-UAE CEPA
13	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)

Source: PIB

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



Why in News

- HDFC Limited will merge with HDFC Bank.
- The merger is set to make the company the third most valuable in the country.

Key Points

- HDFC will acquire a 41 percent stake in HDFC Bank through the transformational merger.
- HDFC Limited Chairman Deepak Parekh has described it as a merger of equals. He said mergers will enhance diversity of assets of the combined entity.

About HDFC Bank Limited:

- HDFC Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- It is India's largest private sector bank by assets and world's 10th largest bank by market capitalisation as of April 2021.
- **Founded:** August 1994, India

About HDFC Ltd:

- Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited is an Indian financial services company based in Mumbai.
- It is a major housing finance provider in India.
- **Founded:** 1977

Source: Business Standard

India's merchandise exports hit a record high \$418 billion in 2021-22



Why in News

- India's merchandise exports spurt to a record high of USD 418 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal on higher shipments of petroleum products, engineering goods, gems and jewellery and chemicals, according to official data released recently.

Key Points

- India's merchandise exports had breached the targeted USD 400 billion mark on March 21 this year.
- Agriculture exports crossed USD 48 billion during April 2021-March 2022.
- The top export destinations are the US, the UAE, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Singapore, Hong Kong, the UK, Belgium and Germany.

Source: India Today

Important News: Defense

iDEX-Prime & 6th Defence India Start-up Challenge



Why in News

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime** and **sixth Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 6)** during **DefConnect 2.0** in New Delhi.

About Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX):

- It was launched in April 2018.
- It aims to achieve self - reliance and foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.
- The aim of **iDEX-Prime** is to support projects, requiring support beyond Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore, to help ever-growing start-ups in the defence sector.

Source: PIB

Govt amends Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020



Why in News

- To further promote 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and enable Ease of Doing Business, Defence **Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** has been amended based on the approvals accorded by **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**.

Key Points

- Import of defence equipment/sourcing from Foreign Industry of capital acquisitions should only be an exception and undertaken with specific approval of DAC/Defence Minister.
- To create an ecosystem which fosters innovation and encourages technology development in Defence by engaging R&D institutes, academia, industries, startups and individual innovators, the **iDEX framework** was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2018.
- To enable the budding startup talent pool of the country to contribute towards the twin mantras of self-sufficiency and indigenization, the procurement process under iDEX procedure of DAP 2020 has been simplified.

Source: India Today

National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India)



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

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

Cyber Security Initiatives:

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

Source: PIB

Sixth scorpene submarine 'INS Vagsheer' launched in Mumbai



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- The first of the Project - 75 submarines was commissioned into the Navy in December 2017 and presently four submarines (INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi and INS Karang, and INS Vela) of this Project are in commission in the Indian Navy.
- The fifth submarine 'INS Vagir' is progressing with the Sea Trials and is likely to be delivered this year.

- The sixth submarine will now commence setting to work of various equipment and their harbour trials.
- The submarines are being manufactured at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with Naval Group, France.

Source: HT

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- The event was attended by more than 85 participants from 50 agencies, including 29 observers from 22 friendly foreign countries & International Organisations and two Coast Guard ships from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- The objective of NATPOLREX-VIII is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills.
- It aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the **National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP)** at the national and regional levels under the aegis of SACEP MoU to which India is a member state.
- Today, the Indian Coast Guard is capable of handling the highest level of oil spills in this region, which is 700 tonnes and above.

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

Source: India Today

Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems Amendment Bill, 2022



Why in News

- Recently, Lok Sabha passed **Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022.**

Key Points

- The Bill moved by External affairs Minister S. Jaishankar amends the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005.
- The 2005 Act prohibits unlawful activities (such as manufacturing, transport, or transfer) related to weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery.
- Weapons of Mass Destruction are biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons.
- The present Bill bars persons from financing any prohibited activity related to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
- To prevent persons from financing such activities, the central government may freeze, seize or attach their funds, financial assets, or economic resources (whether owned, held, or controlled directly or indirectly).
- It may also prohibit persons from making finances or related services available for the benefit of other persons in relation to any activity which is prohibited.

Source: Indian Express

India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise



- The 9th Edition of the India – Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise which commenced on 25 Mar 2022 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (HP) culminated on 06 April 2022.
- Over the past two weeks, Special Forces contingents from India and Kyrgyzstan shared their expertise and best practices of tactics, techniques and procedures to counter existing and emergent threats across the entire spectrum of conflict.

Source: PIB

India France Naval Exercise VARUNA – 2022



Why in News

- The **20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies** – ‘VARUNA’ is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from 30 March – 03 April 2022.

Key Points

- The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies were initiated in 1993.
- The exercise was christened as ‘VARUNA’ in 2001 and has become a vital part of India – France strategic bilateral relationship.
- Various units including ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies are participating in the exercise.

Source: India Today

President of India presents President's Colour to INS Valsura



Why in News

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the prestigious President's Colour to INS Valsura.

About President's Colour:

- The President's Colour is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war.
- The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.

About INS Valsura:

- The legacy of INS Valsura dates back to 1942, when the operational necessity mandated creation of an advanced Torpedo Training Facility to enhance the firepower of the Royal Indian Navy during World War-II.

- Post India becoming a Republic, the unit was renamed as INS Valsura on 01 July 1950.
Source: PIB

Indian Army version of MRSAM



Why in News

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

Key Points

- The first launch was to intercept a medium altitude long range target and second launch was for proving the capability of a low altitude short range target.

About Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM):

- This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for use by the Indian Army.
- The MRSAM Army weapon system comprises multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles.
- It is a land based variant of the Barak Air and Missile Defence System (AMD).

Source: Indian Express

Commissioning ceremony of INAS 316



Why in News

- **Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316**, Indian Navy's second P-8I aircraft squadron has been commissioned into the Indian Navy on 29 Mar 2022.
- The ceremony was conducted at INS Hansa, Goa.

Key Points

- INAS 316 has been christened 'Condors' which are one of the largest flying land birds with a massive wingspan.
- INAS 316 will operate the Boeing P-8I aircraft, a multi-role Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMR ASW) aircraft, that can be equipped with a range of Air-to-Ship Missiles and Torpedoes.
- The squadron has been specifically commissioned to be the home for the four new P-8I aircraft procured under the Option Clause contract and to '*Deter, Detect and Destroy*' any threat in the IOR.
- These aircraft have been operating from Hansa since 30 Dec 2021 and the squadron is integrated with full spectrum surface and subsurface Naval Operations.

Source: PIB

IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)



Why in News

- The maiden edition of **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)** was conducted at Goa and in the Arabian Sea from 26 – 30 March 2022.

Key Points

- The aim of the exercise was to enhance interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.
- IMEX – 22 comprised a Harbour Phase at Marmugao port, Goa from 26 to 27 March 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Arabian Sea from 28 to 30 March 2022.
- The participation included warships, Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters from the Navies of Bangladesh, France, India and Iran.
- 22 Observers from 15 IONS member navies, namely Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE and UK also participated in the exercise.

Source: PIB

CCS approves procurement of 15 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)



Why in News

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved procurement of 15 **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Limited Series Production** at the cost of Rs. 3,887 Cr along with Infrastructure sanctions worth Rs. 377 Cr.

Key Points

About Light Combat Helicopter Limited Series Production (LSP):

- LSP is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state of the art modern combat helicopter containing approx. 45% indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55% for SP Version.
- The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) produces the helicopter.

Source: Indian Express

Science and Technology

GAGAN based LPV approach procedure



- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** successfully conducted at Kishangarh Airport, Rajasthan trial using **GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation)** based LPV Approach Procedures.
- The successful trial is a great achievement and major milestone in field of Air Navigation Services (ANS) in the history of Indian Civil Aviation Sector.
- India is the first country in Asia Pacific Region to achieve such a landmark.

Key Points

- **LPV (Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance)** permits aircraft guided approaches that are operationally nearly equivalent to Cat-I/ILS, without the need for ground-based navigational infrastructure. The service relies on the availability of GPS and GAGAN Geo Stationary Satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-15), launched by ISRO.
- GAGAN is an Indian Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) jointly developed by AAI and ISRO.

- There are only four Space-Based augmentation systems available in the world namely India (GAGAN), US (WAAS) Europe (EGNOS) and Japan (MSAS).

Source: PIB

Solar power production in India getting impacted by Forest fires: Study

- A new study has found that forest fires which plague different parts of India, especially during the summer season play a major role in reducing solar power production in India.



Key Points

- Such analysis of the energy and financial losses due to the direct and indirect effects of forest fires on the production of solar plants can help grid operators to plan and schedule power generation, as also the distribution, supply, security, and overall stability of power production.
- Recently, solar energy generation has been widely used in developing countries such as India which has sufficient solar resources. However, several factors like clouds, aerosols, and pollution generated from various sources limit the solar irradiance causing performance issues in the photovoltaic and concentrated solar power plant installations.

Note:

- A group of researchers at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital an autonomous research institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Govt. of India, and the National Observatory of Athens (NOA), Greece tried to trace the factors that reduce solar energy production.

Source: ET

Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

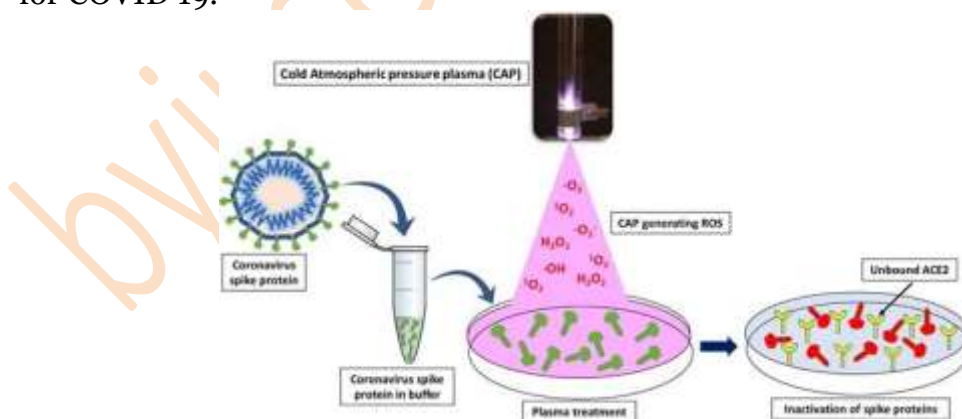
Note: India and Finland are consultative members of the Antarctic Treaty and have active stations in Antarctica. Finland would be hosting the **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)** in 2023 and India in 2024.

Source: The Hindu

Indian scientists develop plasma-based decontaminant for COVID-19

Why in News?

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



Key Points

- A team of scientists from the Life Sciences and Physical Sciences divisions from the Institute of the Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), an autonomous research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, Guwahati, Assam has demonstrated that the plasma generated by cold atmospheric pressure has the

potential to deactivate SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, which binds to human ACE2 receptor for inducing viral infection and subsequent COVID-19.

- **Plasma**, the fourth state of matter which makes up most of the universe when produced in controlled conditions in the lab and is termed as **Cold Atmospheric Pressure Plasma (CAP)**.
- This research recently published in the international journal of the RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry) Advances shows that short-lived highly reactive oxygen and nitrogen species (ROS/RNS) generated in the plasma led to complete deactivation of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein occurs within 2 min of CAP treatment.
- The RT-PCR analysis has also established that CAP can deactivate the RNA of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Source: Business Today

scientists finds IgG antibodies against Nipah



Why in News

- Scientists at Pune's Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) were able to detect the presence of IgG antibodies against **Nipah virus infection (NiV)** in 51 bats that were captured from Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Key Points

- Nipah virus (NiV) is one of the priority pathogens with a pandemic potential. Though the spread is far slower than SARS-CoV-2, case fatality is the biggest concern.
- The first human infection with NiV was identified during an outbreak of severe encephalitis in Malaysia in 1998–1999.
- More than 700 human cases of Nipah virus infections were reported from Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Singapore and Philippines during 1998– 2018.

Source: Indian Express

ISRO to step up tracking of space debris



Why in News

- With space junk posing an increasing threat to Indian assets in space, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under the **Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA)** project.

Key Points

- A space debris tracking radar with a range of 1,500 km and an optical telescope will be inducted as part of establishing an effective surveillance and tracking network under NETRA.

NETRA Project:

- It is an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- Once operational, it will give India its own capability in Space Situational Awareness (SSA) like the other space powers.

Source: The Hindu

MATLAB on I-STEM National Portal launched



Why in News

- For the first time in the country, academic users in India will be able to access the **MATLAB software** suite at no cost through the **Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) portal**.

Key Points

- The MATLAB software suite is hosted on the cloud server of I-STEM to provide user friendly access from anywhere in India.

About MATLAB:

- MATLAB is a proprietary multi-paradigm programming language and numeric computing environment developed by MathWorks.

About I-STEM:

- I-STEM is an initiative of Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (PSA, GoI) under the aegis of **Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)**.

Source: PIB

Environment

World will face at least 560 climate disasters every year by 2030: UN Report



- The world will face around 560 disasters every year by 2030, warned the United Nations in a new report.

Key Points

- This is five times higher than the previous three decades, the **Global Assessment Report (GAR 2022)** recently released by the United Nations.
- The **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** released the report ahead of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May, 2022.
- An additional 37.6 million people are estimated to be living in conditions of extreme poverty due to the impacts of climate change and disasters by 2030.
- A majority of countries that face a high disaster risk are also among those with the highest share of population living under the national poverty line.
- These include the Philippines, Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam from the Asia-Pacific region.

Source: DTE

Parliamentary panel suggests changes to Wildlife Protection (amendment) Bill 2021



Why in News

- The parliamentary panel headed by senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh submitted a 254-page report after reviewing the **Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill 2021**.
- It highlighted several concerns regarding the legislation and urged the Union environment ministry to consider the recommendations of scientists and conservationists mentioned in the report.

Key features of the Bill:

- The most important reason given by the environment ministry for introducing the bill was the urgent need to provide legislative backing to commitments made by India over the past many years to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals that came into force in 1975.
- The bill's objectives include ensuring that international trade in wildlife is legal, sustainable and traceable by implementing CITES.
- The Ministry has streamlined the scheduling of species from the original six schedules to just three — Schedule I for species that will enjoy the highest level of protection, Schedule II for species that will be subject to a lesser degree of protection and Schedule III that covers plants.

Source: HT

Scientists discover new eel species from Kerala, Bengal

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

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

Source: DTE

India hosts Clean Energy Ministerial Senior Officials meeting



Why in News

- India is hosting the **Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) Senior Officials meetings** starting from 6 April, 2022. This will conclude on 8 April.
- The meeting will also be used to prepare the agenda for the upcoming Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting in September 2022.
- The Government of India and the United Kingdom lead the plenary dialogue on the future of Energy Transition.

About Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM):

- CEM is a high-level global forum of 29 member countries to promote policies and programs that advance clean energy technology through sharing of knowledge and best practices with a focus on transition to a global clean energy future.

Source: ET

Mission Integrated Bio-refineries



Why in News

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched a major futuristic PPP (Public Private Participation) mode initiative for 'Clean Energy' with the full launch of “**Mission Integrated Bio-refineries**” to accelerate Clean Energy solutions through Public -Private Alliances.

Key Points

- Dr. Jitendra Singh also launched three **Material Acceleration Platforms (MAP)** set up by Department of Science and Technology (DST) on Integrated Clean Energy

Material Acceleration Platform on Storage, Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Materials and Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Bioenergy and Hydrogen with a total cost of \$ 6 Million USD.

- He also announced **‘National Funding Opportunity on Sustainable Aviation Fuels’** to support and conduct RD&D (Research, Development & Demonstration) to foster technological innovations in advanced biofuels for aviation applications.
- DST has committed to facilitate the delivery of three clean hydrogen valleys in India by 2030.

Source: PIB

‘Prakriti’& green initiatives for effective Plastic Waste Management



Why in News

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched ‘Prakriti’, a mascot to spread greater awareness among masses about small changes that can be sustainably adopt in our lifestyle for a better environment, and various green initiatives taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.
- The event also saw felicitation of the winners of the India Plastic Challenge–Hackathon 2021.

Key Points

- To tackle the challenge of plastic pollution, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi announced India’s pledge to phase out Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2022.
- India is generating about 3.5 Million Tonnes of plastic waste annually and the per capita plastic waste generation has almost doubled over the last five years.
- Further, he informed about the recently released IPCC Working Group III contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which focuses on mitigation measures to keep the world aligned to the Plastic Waste Management goals and what we can do to remain on the roadmap set by the Paris Agreement.

Source: PIB

Indian Antarctic Bill-2022



Why in News

- The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday, with the goal of establishing India's own national measures for conserving the Antarctic environment, as well as its dependent and linked ecosystems, by extending Indian laws to the southern continent.
- Among Bill's various scientific and research-related provisions, it mentions "optimal use of government resources and formation of public partnership structures to promote and harness the full potential of benefits available under the Antarctic Treaty, including Antarctic Tourism."

Aims of the Indian Antarctic Bill 2022

- To establish national policies to conserve the Antarctic environment and ecosystems, as well as to give the Antarctic Treaty effect.
- Through a well-established legislative structure, create a unified policy framework for India's Antarctic initiatives.
- Facilitate Indian Antarctic programme initiatives, such as Antarctic tourism management and sustainable fisheries development.

About Antarctica Treaty:

- Antarctica covers 14 million square kilometres and has no indigenous population (i.e. "Antarcticans" don't exist).
- Throughout the year, though, a few thousand people live there, in some 40 research stations distributed across the continent.
- The 'Antarctic Treaty' was signed in 1959 by 12 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Their goal was to keep the continent from becoming militarized and to make it a hub for peaceful activity.
- Later, more countries, including India, joined the treaty, bringing the total number of signatories to over 54.

Source: Indian Express

Massive fire in Sariska Tiger Reserve



Why in News

- Recently, a massive fire has broken out in the **Sariska Tiger Reserve**.

Key Points

- An 8-10 sq km area in the Akbarpur range has been affected despite timely satellite warnings and the availability of a real-time mobile application-based fire response system.

About Sariska Tiger Reserve:

- Sariska Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Alwar district, Rajasthan, India.
- It stretches over an area of 881 km² comprising scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills.
- This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1958.
- It was given the status of a tiger reserve making it a part of India's Project Tiger in 1978.
- The wildlife sanctuary was declared a national park in 1982, with a total area of about 273.8 km².

Source: Indian Express

Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges in UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites



Why in News

- **Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges**, found in over 70 villages in the state, have been included in the **tentative list of World Heritage Sites of the UNESCO**.

About Living Root Bridges:

- It is a type of simple suspension bridge formed by the method of tree shaping to form living plant roots across a stream or river.
- Once mature, some bridges can have as many as 50 people crossing them and can last for over 150 years.
- At present, there are about 100 known living root bridges spread across 72 villages in the state.

India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

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

Source: Indian Express

Schemes

PM SVANidhi scheme to continue till December 2024

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the continuation of lending under the **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** beyond March 2022 till December 2024.



About Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):

- Through the Scheme, affordable collateral-free loans are being facilitated to the Street Vendors.
- The Scheme had envisaged to facilitate loans for an amount of Rs. 5,000 crore.
- Today's approval has increased the loan amount to Rs. 8,100 crore, thereby providing the Street vendors working capital to further expand their business and making them AtmaNirbhar.
- Under PM SVANidhi, significant achievements have already been made. As on April 25, 2022, 31.9 lakh loans have been sanctioned and 29.6 lakh loans amounting to Rs. 2,931 crore have been disbursed.
- This scheme was started in June 2020.

Source: PIB

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP):

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

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

Source: PIB

Stand Up India Scheme completes 6 years



Why in News

- The sixth anniversary of the Stand Up India scheme was on 5th April 2022.
- Over 30 thousand 160 crore rupees have been sanctioned under Stand Up India Scheme to more than 1 lakh 33 thousand 995 accounts since inception of the Scheme.

About Stand Up India scheme:

- Stand Up India scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th April 2016.
- It facilitates loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and women borrowers for setting up a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services, or trading sector.
- In 2019-20, the Stand Up India scheme was extended for the entire period coinciding with the 15th Finance Commission period of 2020-25.

Source: newsonair

MyGov- the robust citizen engagement platform for Jammu & Kashmir



Why in News

- To take forward the idea of citizen engagement and achieve the goal of 'Good Governance' in **India's first Union Territory, MyGov Jammu & Kashmir** has been launched by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir.

Key Points

- **MyGov Jammu and Kashmir** is the **16th MyGov Instance** and **1st ever MyGov for any Union Territory** in the 7+ years journey of MyGov.

About MyGov:

- MyGov was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 26th July 2014, with the idea of bringing the Government closer to the common man by creating an interface for a healthy exchange of ideas and views towards the social and economic transformation of India.

Source: PIB

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)-Gramin



Why in News

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 5.21 lakh houses of beneficiaries of the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)-Gramin** in Madhya Pradesh while participating in the 'Grah Pravesham', a ceremony to hand over new houses to their owners.

Key Points

- So far, 2.5 crore houses have been constructed under the PMAY scheme in the country, including two crore in rural areas.
- The Prime Minister also called upon people to take a vow to construct 75 'amrit sarovar' (ponds) in every district of the country over the next 12 months, as the nation marks 75 years of its independence.

About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)-Gramin:

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)-Gramin, previously Indira Awas Yojana, is a social welfare programme, created by the Indian Government, to provide housing for the rural poor in India.

Source: ET

“Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance”



Why in News

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved a USD 808 million or Rs 6,062.45 crore, World Bank assisted programme on “**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**” (RAMP).

- RAMP is a new scheme and would commence in FY 2022-23.

Key Points

- RAMP is a World Bank assisted Central Sector Scheme, supporting various Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID) Resilience and Recovery Interventions of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).
- RAMP programme with impacts across the country will directly or indirectly benefit all 63 million enterprises that qualify as MSMEs

Background:

- RAMP was formulated and proposed by the Government of India, for strengthening MSMEs in line with the recommendations made by U K Sinha Committee, KV Kamath Committee and Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).

Source: HT

Awards and Honours

PM Modi receives first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** received the first **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** for his selfless service to the nation and society at the 80th annual Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony in Mumbai.



Key Points

- The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award was instituted in the memory and honour of Lata Mangeshkar who died at the age of 92 on February 6, 2022.

Source: HT

India creates Guinness world record by waving 78,220 flags simultaneously



Why in News

- India has created world record by waving 78,220 tricolors simultaneously.
- On April 23, 2022 India entered the **Guinness Book of World Records** by waving over 78 thousand tricolor flags simultaneously at the Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav programme in Bhojpur, Bihar.

Key Points

- The event was organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Culture as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- The 'Amrit Mahotsav' was organised to commemorate the 164th anniversary of freedom fighter Veer Kunwar Singh - a key figure in the 1857 mutiny.
- Veer Kunwar Singh fought his last battle near Jagdishpur on April 23, 1858, and defeated the East India Company in this battle.
- Kunwar Singh died in service for the nation after taking down the Union Jack flag from Jagdishpur Fort.

Source: HT

Falguni Nayar wins EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2021



Why in News

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

Key Points

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

Source: Business Today

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



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme **UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik)** has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category "Innovation (General) – Central".

Key Points

About the Award:

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

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

About UDAN scheme:

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

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans and commits to construct 100 new airports by 2024 in India with 1,000 new routes under UDAN RCS scheme by the year 2026.

Source: PIB

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

Why in News?

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



Key Points

- **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence** in Public Administration have been instituted with a view to recognize the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/implementing units and Central/State organisations for the welfare of common citizens.
- They are also conferred for effective implementation of identified priority programs and innovation.
- Exemplary work done in the following five identified priority programmes will be given awards which is to be presented on **Civil Services Day 2022**: (i) Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's Participation in **Poshan Abhiyan**, (ii) Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through **Khelo India scheme**, (iii) Digital payments and Good Governance in **PM SVANidhi Yojana**, (iv) Holistic Development through **One District One Product scheme**, (v) Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention.
- A total of 16 awards for 5 identified Priority Programmes and for innovations in the sphere of public administration/delivery of services etc. will be given this year.

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

Source: HT

David Attenborough receives the UN's most distinguished environment award

Why in News?

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



Key Points

- This Lifetime Achievement Award is given in a historic year for the global environmental community. 2022 marks fifty years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, which was one of the first international meetings on the environment.
- The conference spurred the formation of environment ministries and agencies around the world, kick started a host of new global agreements to collectively protect the environment, and led to the formation of **UNEP**, which is observing its 50th anniversary this year.

Facts about United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

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

Source: DTE

Ramdarash Mishra selected for Saraswati Samman 2021



Why in News

- Noted poet and litterateur **Prof Ramdarash Mishra** will be awarded the prestigious **Saraswati Samman 2021**, for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'.

About Saraswati Samman:

- The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any of the 22 languages of India listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.
- The Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation. It consists of ₹15,00,000, a citation and a plaque.

- Candidates are selected from literary works published in the previous ten years by a panel that included scholars and former award winners.

Source: HT

Grammy Awards 2022



- The 64th Annual Grammy Awards were held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. This was the first time a Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Las Vegas, USA.
- Every year, the Grammys honour musical artistes, compositions and albums.
- They have been held every year since 1959.
- Jon Batiste emerged as the biggest winner, with 5 wins out of 11 nominations.
- **Indian-American singer Falguni Shah** has won the Grammy Award 2022 for the Best Children's Music Album for A Colourful World.
- **Indian music composer Ricky Kej** has made India proud again at the Grammy Awards stage. After bagging the prestigious music award in 2015 for his album 'Winds of Samsara', this year Kej lifted the coveted award along with Rock-legend Stewart Copeland (The Police) for the Best New Age Album 'Divine Tides'.

List of main winners of the 64th annual Grammy Awards:

- Album Of The Year: 'We Are' by Jon Batiste
- Record Of The Year: 'Leave the door open' by Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak
- Best New Artist: Olivia Rodrigo
- Best Rap Album: "Call Me If You Get Lost," Tyler, the Creator
- Best Country Album: "Starting Over," Chris Stapleton
- Song Of The Year: "Leave the Door Open," Silk Sonic (Brandon Anderson, Christopher Brody Brown, Dernst Emile II and Bruno Mars)
- Best Rock Album: "Medicine at Midnight," Foo Fighters
- Best Rock Song: "Waiting On a War," Foo Fighters
- Best Music Video: "Freedom," Jon Batiste
- Best Country Song: "Cold," Chris Stapleton
- Best Folk Album: "They're Calling Me Home," Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi

- Best Music Film: “Summer of Soul”
- Source: Indian Express**

Oscar Awards 2022



- The **94th Academy Awards (Oscar Awards)** ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored the best films released between March 1 and December 31, 2021.
- Will Smith won the first Oscar as Best Actor of his career for his performance in King Richard. Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for The Eyes of Tammy Faye.
- CODA was the big winner, winning the Best Picture award. The film was nominated in three categories and won all three.
- Dune won six awards at the Oscars out of its ten nominations.

Some of the other prominent awards:

- Best Picture: CODA
- Best Actor: Will Smith for King Richard
- Best Actress: Jessica Chastain for The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- Best Director: Jane Campion for The Power of the Dog
- Best Supporting Actor: Troy Kotsur for CODA
- Best Supporting Actress: Ariana DeBose for West Side Story
- Best Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball
- Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car

Source: Newsonair

National Water Awards



Why in News

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind felicitated the winners of the **3rd National Water Awards** instituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti and launched the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022** on 29th March 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Key Points

- The States of **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu** have got the first, second and third prizes respectively in the Best State category.

About National Water Awards:

- The first National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018.
- The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti gave 57 awards to States, Organizations, Individuals etc. in 11 different categories.

Source: PIB

Books and Authors

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan releases a book “Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak”



Why in News

- Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released a book “Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak” written by Prof. Alok Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur.

Key Points

- This book is a comprehensive attempt to bring to the fore the struggle of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the contribution of forest dwellers in the freedom movement.
- He appreciated Prof. Alok Chakrawal for making an effort to inscribe the story of the unsung heroes of freedom in the national memory on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Source: PIB

A Children’s Book ‘The Little Book of Joy’ authored by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu



Why in News

- A picture-book edition of a bestseller co-authored by the Nobel Peace Prize winners the **Dalai Lama (14th Dalai Lama- Tenzin Gyatso)** and **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, titled ‘The Little Book of Joy’ will be released.

Key Points

- Random House Children’s Books announced that “The Little Book of Joy” will come out September 2022, with Rachel Neumann and Douglas Abrams collaborating on the text, and illustrations provided by artist Rafael López.

Source: Indian Express

NITI Aayog and FAO launch book titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030



Why in News

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled *Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems*, at an event organized by **NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations.

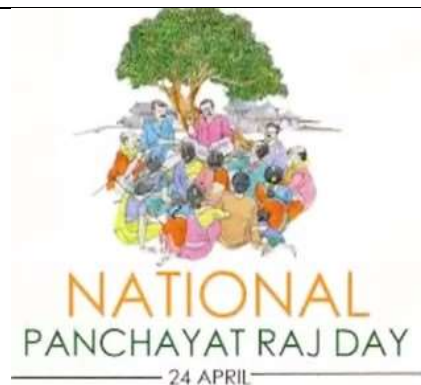
Indian Agriculture towards 2030 covers the following themes:

- Transforming Indian Agriculture
- Structural Reforms and Governance
- Dietary Diversity, Nutrition and Food Safety
- Managing Climate Risks in Agriculture
- Science, Technology and Innovation
- Symbiosis of Water and Agricultural Transformation in India
- Pests, Pandemics, Preparedness and Biosecurity
- Transformative Agroecology-Based Alternatives for a Sustainable and Biodiverse Future

Source: PIB

Important Days

April 24, National Panchayati Raj Day



Why in News

- National Panchayati Raj Day is observed on 24 April annually.

Key Points

- Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2010.
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj commemorates 24th April as the National Panchayati Raj Day, as the 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into force on this date.

Note:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Jammu and Kashmir to participate in the celebration of National Panchayati Raj Day 2022.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the Banihal Qazigund Road Tunnel. The 8.45-kilometre long tunnel will reduce the road distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 16 kilometres.
- The Prime Minister also launched the Amrit Sarovar initiative. It is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country.

Source: newsonair

April 26, World Intellectual Property Day

Why in News

- **World Intellectual Property Day (World IP Day)** is observed annually on 26 April.



Key Points

- The **theme** for World Intellectual Property Day 2022 is "IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future."
- The day was established by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** in 2000 to "raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life".
- 26 April was chosen as the date for World Intellectual Property Day because it coincides with the date on which the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization entered into force in 1970.

Source: wipo.int

April 28, World Day for Safety and Health at Work



- World Day for Safety and Health at Work is a UN international day that is celebrated every April 28.
- The theme set for this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work is '**Act together to build a positive safety and health culture**'.
- The World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2022 focuses on enhancing social dialogue towards a culture of safety and health.
- World Day for Safety and Health at Work was first celebrated by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** in 2003.

Source: un.org

April 18, World Heritage Day



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- The first sites to be inscribed were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, of which all were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- The latest site to be inscribed is Dholavira, Gujarat in 2021.
- As of July 2021, 19 of the 36 States and union territories of India are home to the World Heritage Sites, with Maharashtra having the highest number of sites (5).
- At present, there are 40 World Heritage Sites located in India. Out of these, 32 are cultural, 7 are natural, and 1 is mixed (meeting both cultural and natural criteria), as determined by the organization's selection criteria.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.

World's UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

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

Source: Indian Express

April 17, World Hemophilia Day



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

About Hemophilia:

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

Source: HT

April 21, National Civil Services Day



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

- Sardar Patel had referred to the civil servants as the "steel frame of India".

April 22, International Mother Earth Day

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

Source: un.org

April 7, World Health Day



Why in News

- World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7 April to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948.
- The theme for World Health Day 2022 is 'Our Planet, Our Health'.

History:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) convened the first World Health Assembly in 1948, which called for the establishment of a "World Health Day."
- The first World Health Day was held on April 7, 1950, and it has been observed on that date every year thereafter.

Source: India Today

April 05, National Maritime Day



Why in News

- National Maritime Day is observed on April 5th every year.

Key Points

- The National Maritime Day was first celebrated on April 5, 1964.
- The legacy of Indian shipping first started on April 5th, 1919, when the first ship The SS Loyalty manufactured by The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. sailed from Mumbai to the United Kingdom.

Source: India Today

October 5 to be designated as National Dolphin Day



Why in News

- The Union Environment Ministry has designated **October 5 as National Dolphin Day**, to be observed annually starting this year.
- The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

Key Points

- Dolphins act as ideal ecological indicators of a healthy aquatic ecosystem and conservation of the Dolphins will, therefore, benefit the survival of the species and also, the people dependent on the aquatic system for their livelihood.
- The Gangetic dolphin is an indicator species, whose status provides information on the overall condition of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem, for the Ganga ecosystem and is extremely vulnerable to changes in water quality and flow.
- It is categorised as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.

- A WWF-India and the Uttar Pradesh forest department assessment in 2012 and 2015 recorded 1,272 dolphins in the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ken, Betwa, Son, Sharda, Geruwa, Ghagra, Gandak and Rapti.

Source: HT

Sports

Jasprit Bumrah, Rohit Sharma named among Wisden's five 'Cricketers of the Year' 2022

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



About Wisden Cricketers' Almanack:

- Wisden Cricketers' Almanack colloquially the Bible of Cricket, is a cricket reference book published annually in the United Kingdom.

Source: ET

Australia's Victoria state to host 2026 Commonwealth Games

Why in News?

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



Key Points

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

- It will be the sixth time that Australia has staged the Commonwealth Games and the second time in Victoria.

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

About Commonwealth Games:

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

Source: Indian Express

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- India and Mumbai Indians skipper achieved this milestone during the IPL 2022 match of Mumbai Indians against Punjab Kings in Pune.
- Rohit Sharma became the seventh batter overall to reach the 10 thousand runs in T20s.
- West Indian legend Chris Gayle is leading the list of run-getters with 14,562 runs to his name followed by Pakistan's Shoaib Malik (11698), West Indies Kieron Pollard (11474), Australia's Aaron Finch (10499), Virat Kohli (10379) and Australia's David Warner (10373).

Source: newsonair

India to host Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023



Why in News?

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

Key Points

- Organised by Street Child United and Save the Children India, the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year.
- This event will take place in September ahead of the ICC World Cup.

Source: newsonair

India's contribution of USD 72,124 to UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport



युवा कार्यक्रम
एवं खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
**YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS**

सत्यमेव जयते

Why in News

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports released India's contribution of USD 72,124 to **UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport** in 2022.

Key Points

- As per the resolution of 7 COP held at Paris, 29-31 September, 2019, the State Parties had agreed for 1% of the contribution of the regular budget of respective nations to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.
- First time in 2021, the Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports made a contribution of USD 28172 towards the UNESCO Fund on the basis of a request received from UNESCO.

Source: PIB

Sports Minister launches new rare chemical Reference Materials to strengthen anti-doping testing





Why in News

- The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) has indigenously developed six new and rare Reference Materials (RMs), which is the purest form of chemical required for anti-doping analysis in all WADA-accredited Laboratories across the world.
- The RMs were launched by the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur during the 15th Governing Body Meeting of NDTL.

Key Points

- The six RMs have been developed in less than a year by NDTL in association with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)-Guwahati and the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.
- These Reference Materials are not readily available across the world but are needed by every WADA-accredited laboratory for their anti-doping analysis.
- India itself has been importing RMs from Canada and Australia.

Source: newsonair

Australia wins 7th ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 title



Why in News

- **Australia** won the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 title after defeating England in the final by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Key Points

- This is the record for the seventh time Australia women have won the world cup.

- The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup was the twelfth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup, which was held in New Zealand in March and April 2022.

Source: India Today

SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship 2022



Why in News

- Indian team has won the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship title 2022 held at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand.

Key Points

- India lost to Bangladesh, 0-1 but still emerged champions of the tournament on account of better goal difference.
- The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer of the tournament was Lynda Kom, who scored five goals in the tournament.

Source: TOI

BYJU'S named as official sponsor of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022



Why in News

- Ed-tech company **BYJU'S** has been named as an official sponsor of the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**.

Key Points

- The 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar from 21 November to 18 December, 2022.
- Bengaluru-headquartered BYJU'S has offices in 21 countries and its products are present in over 120 countries.

Source: TOI

Mirabai Chanu wins the BBC ISWOTY 2021 award



Why in News

- Indian weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** has been announced the winner of the third edition of the **BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year (ISWOTY) 2021 award**.

Key Points

- Mirabai Chanu created history in 2021 when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- The '**BBC Emerging Player**' award has been presented to **Shafali Verma**, the youngest female cricketer who played for India in Women's Twenty20 International match in 2019.
- The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, **Karnam Malleswari** has been presented the **BBC Lifetime Achievement award**.

Source: TOI

Reports and Indexes

World's poorest countries need \$600 million a year for water, sanitation in healthcare centres: WaterAid



Why in News

- According to a new report, around \$600 million a year is required to provide water and sanitation in the healthcare centres in some of the poorest countries by 2030.
- The analysis by **WaterAid**, is based on a latest research paper published in the journal Lancet, which focused on the lack of water, sanitation and hygiene access in health facilities in the 46 **Least-Developed Countries (LDC)**.

Key Points

- Around \$6.5-9.6 billion will be needed from 2021 to 2030 to achieve water and sanitation provision in every public health facility in the world's poorest countries.
- Domestic public resources are a critical source of finance for achieving universal access to **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**.

- Half of healthcare facilities in LDCs lack basic water services and 60 percent have no sanitation services.
- Arounds 75 percent of global funding for water and sanitation is now in the form of loans.
- WaterAid is calling on the world's richest countries, including the G7 who will meet in Germany in June 2022, to deliver on the \$600 million annual funding gap in order to provide lifesaving water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to healthcare centres in some of the poorest countries by 2030.

Source: DTE

India, again, 'Country of Particular Concern' on religious freedom grounds



Why in News

- The **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** recommended, for the third year in a row, that **India** be designated a '**Country of Particular Concern**' (CPC) in 2021, i.e., the category of governments performing most poorly on religious freedom criteria.

Highlights of the Report:

- It was said in report that religious freedom conditions in India had "significantly worsened" in 2021.
- The report section on India said that the government had "repressed critical voices", especially minority communities and individuals reporting on them.
- It mentions the arrest of rights activist Khuran Pervez in Kashmir, and the July 2021 death of octogenarian Father Stan Swamy, arrested in October 2020 under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).
- The report touches on challenges faced by Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), especially with regard to foreign funding. It also highlights anti-conversion laws.

About United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF):

- USCIRF is a U.S. federal government commission created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.
- **Founded:** 28 October 1998
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C.

Source: The Hindu

World military spending at all-time high despite pandemic: SIPRI



Why in News

- World military spending continued to grow in 2021, reaching an all-time high of \$2.1 trillion despite the economic fallout of the pandemic, according to new data on global military spending published by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.

Key Points

- The five largest spenders in 2021 were the U.S, China, India, the U.K and Russia, together accounting for 62% of expenditure.
- India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world. This was up by 0.9% from 2020 and by 33% from 2012.

Source: The Hindu

2021 Human Rights Report on India: United States



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Key Highlights of the Report:

- Indian law “prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention but both occurred during the year”, with police using “special security laws to postpone judicial reviews of arrests”.

- India has "significant human rights issues" such as "restrictions on free expression and media, including violence" and "threats of violence, or unjustified arrests or prosecutions against journalists".
- The India chapter of the report also cited "terrorists and extremists perpetrating killings, violence, and intimidation" against journalists critical of the government.
- The report noted India was downgraded from free to partly free in the Freedom in the World 2021 report, and said the government had blocked Twitter accounts of several journalists who covered the farmers' protest last year.
- The report highlighted the cases of Amnesty International India, whose assets were frozen by the Enforcement Directorate, and the suspension of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) license of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) for alleged violations.

Human Rights Related Provisions in India:

Enunciated in the Constitution:

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

Statutory Provisions:

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

Source: The Hindu

‘e-DAR’ (e-Detailed Accident Report)



Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has developed a portal named **‘e-DAR’ (e-Detailed Accident Report)**.

Key Points

- A web portal designed by the government in consultation with insurance companies will provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' families.
- Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR) will be uploaded on the portal for easy access.
- The web portal will be linked to the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD).
- From iRAD, applications to more than 90% of the datasets would be pushed directly to the e-DAR.
- Stakeholders like the police, road authorities, hospitals, etc., are required to enter very minimal information for the e-DAR forms.

- e-DAR would be an extension and e-version of iRAD.

Other Initiatives Related to Road Safety:

India:

- Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019
- The Carriage by Road Act, 2007
- The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2000
- The National Highways Authority of India Act, 1998

Global Level:

- Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015)
- UN Global Road Safety Week
- The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP)

Source: The Hindu

World Energy Transitions Outlook 2022



Why in News

- The **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** launched the **World Energy Transitions Outlook 2022** at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue.

Findings of the World Energy Transitions Outlook 2022:

- The Outlook sets out priority areas and actions based on available technologies that must be realised by 2030 to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century.
- Increasing ambition in the National Determined Contributions and national energy plans under the Glasgow Climate Pact must provide certainty and guide investment strategies in line with 1.5°C.

State of India's Energy Transition:

- The country's installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity stands at 150.54 GW (solar: 48.55 GW, wind: 40.03 GW, Small hydro Power: 4.83 GW, Bio-power: 10.62 GW, Large Hydro: 46.51 GW) as on 30th November 2021 while its nuclear energy based installed electricity capacity stands at 6.78 GW.
- India has the 4th largest wind power capacity in the world.

Source: DTE

Export Preparedness Index 2021



Why in News

- NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the **Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021**.
- This edition has shown that most of the 'Coastal States' are the best performers, with Gujarat as the top-performer.

Key Points

- **Gujarat** has retained the top position at the NITI Aayog's second edition of the Export Preparedness Index 2021 followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as the top 10 performers.
- Among union territories, **Delhi** has topped the index followed by Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Puducherry while Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim and Manipur were at the top five paces among Himalayan states.
- The report is a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements.
- The index can be used by states and union territories (UTs) to benchmark their performance against their peers and analyse potential challenges to develop better policy mechanisms to foster export-led growth at the subnational level.

About Export Preparedness Index (EPI):

- The Export Preparedness Index is a data-driven endeavour to identify the fundamental areas critical for subnational export promotion.
- The EPI ranks states and UTs on 4 main pillars—Policy; Business Ecosystem; Export Ecosystem; Export Performance—and 11 sub-pillars—Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Access to Finance; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.

Source: PIB

UP's Moradabad 2nd most noise polluted city globally

NOISIEST CITIES

Dhaka (Bangladesh)	119 dB
Moradabad (UP, India)	114 dB
Islamabad (Pakistan)	105 dB
Rajshahi (Bangladesh)	103 dB
Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	103dB

Why in News

- The city of **Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh** is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent '**Annual Frontier Report, 2022**' published by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Moradabad has recorded noise pollution of a maximum of 114 decibels (dB).

Key Points

- The report ranks 61 cities around the world.
- The highest noise pollution of 119 dB has been recorded in **Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh**.
- At third place is Pakistan's capital Islamabad, where the noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 dB.
- The report identifies 13 noise polluted cities in south Asia.
- Five of these, including Moradabad, are in India, which have recorded alarming levels of noise pollution: Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), Delhi (83 dB).
- The quietest cities in the world are Irbrid at 60 dB, Lyon at 69 dB, Madrid at 69 dB, Stockholm at 70 dB, and Belgrade at 70 dB.
- The noise pollution figures given in the report relate to daytime traffic or vehicles.

Source: TOI

New Appointments

TCS' Krishnan Ramanujam appointed as Nasscom Chairperson for 2022-23



- Nasscom announced that Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Enterprise Growth Group at Tata Consultancy Services has been appointed as its Chairperson for 2022-23.
- Ramanujam succeeds Rekha M. Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India, in this role.

About National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom):

- Nasscom is an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group, focused mainly on the technology industry of India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1 March 1988

Source: The Hindu

Eminent physicist Ajay Kumar Sood appointed Principal Scientific Advisor



Why in News

- Eminent physicist **Ajay Kumar Sood** has been appointed as the **Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA)** to the government.

Key Points

- Mr. Sood, a member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, has been appointed to the post for a period of 3 years to succeed K Vijay Raghavan.
- The **Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA)**'s office aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the Prime Minister and cabinet on matters related to science, technology and innovation.

Source: HT

Economist Suman K Bery appointed as Niti Aayog's vice chairman



Why in News

- Economist **Dr. Suman K Bery** has been appointed as Niti Aayog's vice chairman after Rajiv Kumar stepped down from the post.

Key Points

- The Ministry of Personnel in a statement said that the appointments committee of the cabinet had appointed Suman Bery as the full-time member of the Niti Aayog, and later as the vice chairperson from May 1, 2022.
- Suman Bery was the director-general of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- Bery also served as a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, India's Statistical Commission and of the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy.

Facts about NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):

- **Formed:** 1 January 2015
- **Preceding Government Agency:** Planning Commission
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairperson:** Narendra Modi

Source: Indian Today

Emmanuel Macron re-elected for second consecutive term as President of France



Why in News

- Emmanuel Macron has won a second term in France's presidential election.

Key Points

- Emmanuel Macron defeated far-right rival Marine Le Pen.
- This is the first time in two decades that France has chosen a president for a second straight term.

Source: newsonair

Lt Gen Manoj C Pande appointed as next Chief of Army Staff



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Source: HT

Vinay Mohan Kwatra, India's ambassador to Nepal



- Vinay Mohan Kwatra, the ambassador to Nepal, has been appointed the new foreign secretary of India.
- Kwatra will succeed Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will retire at the end of April.
- He has been serving as Ambassador of India to Nepal from March 2020.

Source: HT

Dr. S Raju takes over as DG, Geological Survey of India



Why in News

- **Dr. S Raju** has taken over as the Director General of **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** in Kolkata.

Key Points

- He succeeds R. S. Garkhal who superannuated on 31st March 2022.
- Prior to assuming the present post Dr. Raju was holding the post of Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ.

About Geological Survey of India (GSI):

- It is a Government of India organization under the Ministry of Mines, one of the oldest of such organisations in the world and the second oldest survey in India after Survey of India.
- **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal
- **Founded:** 4 March 1851

Source: PIB

ITU's appoints India's Aprajita Sharrma as Vice-Chairperson



Why in News

- India has secured a leadership position in Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management of **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** as an Indian official has been appointed as vice chairperson for the same.
- The International Telecommunication Union at Council meetings held at Geneva from 21st March till 31st March, 2022, has announced the appointment of **Ms**

Aprajita Sharma, an IP&TAF Service officer as the vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management.

Key Points

- She will remain as vice chairperson of Council Standing Committee for the years 2023 and 2024 and its chairperson for the years 2025 and 2026.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded:** 17 May 1865
- **Head: Secretary-General;** Houlin Zhao

Source: ET

Yogi Adityanath takes oath as Uttar Pradesh CM for second term



Why in News

- Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second consecutive term at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.
- Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak also took oath as the deputy chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- The oath was administered by Governor Anandiben Patel.
- Adityanath is the 33rd chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. He is the first CM of Uttar Pradesh to win a second successive term after completing a full five-year tenure.
- The BJP retained power in Uttar Pradesh by winning 255 out of 403 constituencies.

Source: India Today

Pramod Sawant takes oath as Goa CM



Why in News

- BJP leader Pramod Sawant took oath as Chief Minister of Goa for the second consecutive term.

Key Points

- Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sawant.
- The BJP had won 20 of the 40 seats in Goa.
- Mr. Sawant was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Goa for the first time in March 2019 after Manohar Parrikar's death.

Source: Indian Express

Gilbert Hougbo will be the next Director-General of ILO



Why in News

- Gilbert Hougbo from Togo will be the next Director-General of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.

Key Points

- Hougbo is currently President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- He will be the 11th Director-General of the ILO, and the first African to hold the post.

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

- It is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Formation:** 11 April 1919
- **Source:** ET

Obituaries

Veteran Congress leader K Shankaranarayanan passes away



- Former Governor of various states and senior Congress leader K Shankaranarayanan passed away at 89.
- He served as Governor in six states (Maharashtra, Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Jharkhand).
- He played a notable role as Finance Minister in A.K. Antony's Cabinet from 2001 to 2004.
- He was elected to the state assembly from the assembly constituencies of Trithala, Sreekandapuram, Ottapalam and Palakkad.

Source: The Hindu

Noted writer Binapani Mohanty passes away



- Noted Odia writer Binapani Mohanty passed away at 85.
- Mohanty has more than 100 books to her credit.
- Besides getting the Padma Shri in 2020, Mohanty received Sahitya Akademi Award, Sarala Samman, and Atibadi Jagannatha Das Sammana by Odisha Sahitya Akademi.

Source: TOI

Pakistani humanitarian activist Bilquis Bano Edhi passes away



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

Source: Business Today

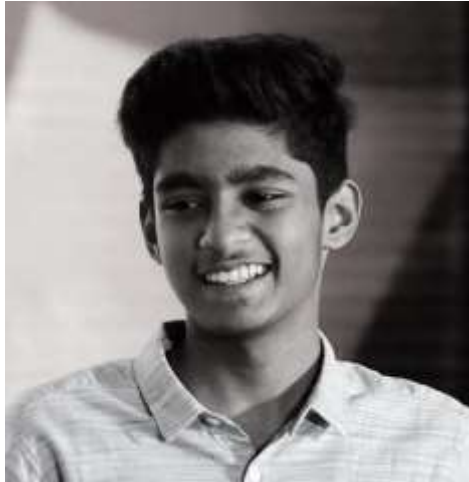
Legendary Odia musician and singer Prafulla Kar passes away



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

Source: TOI

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



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

Source: Indian Express

Miscellaneous

PM Modi inaugurates 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya'

Why in News

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



Key Points

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

Source: TOI

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



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):

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

Source: newsonair

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



Why in News?

- In a first of its kind project in the country, the Maharashtra government has developed a website-based **Migration Tracking System (MTS)** application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers.

Key Points

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

About Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):

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

Schemes under the ICDS:

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

Source: Indian Express

40th 'Hunar Haat'



Why in News?

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

Key Points

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

Source: PIB

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या कोर्समध्ये तुम्हाला काय-काय मिळेल?

- 2022 च्या MPSC राज्यसेवा परीक्षेची संपूर्ण तयारी
- महाराष्ट्रातील नामांकित तज्ञ शिक्षकांद्वारे लाईव्ह क्लासेस
- पूर्व+मुख्य+ मुलाखत या सर्वांची एकत्रित तयारी
- सर्व विषयांचे संदर्भसाहित्य व मोफत नोट्स दिले जातील
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- विषयानुसार व घटक निहाय टेस्ट सिरीज



डॉ. सचिन भस्के
सामान्य विज्ञान आणि विज्ञान
व तंत्रज्ञान तज्ञ



सुमित तट्टे:
गणित आणि बुद्धिमत्ता
चाचणी तज्ञ



रितेश खिरड
अर्थव्यवस्था आणि
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वैभव राजुत
इतिहास आणि चालू
घडामोडी तज्ञ



अभिजीत पाटील
भूगोल, पर्यावरण आणि चालू
घडामोडी तज्ञ