

PRACTICE **MOCK**



April 2022 - Week 1

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the procurement of **15** indigenously developed **Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)** at the cost of Rs.3, 887 crores, or about Rs. 260 crore each.
 - LCHs are manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
 - 10 helicopters will be for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and 5 will be for the Indian Army.
 - The CCS also approved the creation of infrastructure worth **Rs 377 crore**.

Other Cabinet approvals:

The Union Cabinet has approved a hike in **Dearness Allowance (DA)** to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners by **3% to 34%**. It will be effective from 1st January 2022. Earlier, it was 31%.

2. The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise '**VARUNA-2022**' has been conducted between the **Indian Navy** and **French Navy** in the Arabian Sea. Various units including ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies have participated in the exercise.
 - Exercise VARUNA was initiated in 1993.
 - The exercise was christened as 'Varuna' in 2001.
3. The Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has unveiled a software named '**Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records**' (**FASTER**) to transmit court orders swiftly. It will be used to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the **Supreme Court** to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel.
4. The 4th edition of **India Boat & Marine Show (IBMS)** has been held at Bolgatty Palace in **Kochi** in Kerala. It has been organised by Kochi-based Cruz Expo. The exhibition has showcased leading international brands as well as indigenous boat manufacturers from across the country. Around 45 exhibitors from all over India and two international exhibitors have participated in the expo.
5. India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has visited Sri Lanka. During his visit, the following six Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been signed between both nations:

MoU to set up Marine Rescue Coordinating Centre (MRCC):

- India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Sri Lanka** to establish a **Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC)** in Colombo.
- It will be established with a grant of **USD 6 million** from India.
- It will be built by Bangalore-based Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).

Other MoUs signed:

- MoU for the establishment of modern computer labs and smart boards with customized curriculum software in 200 schools in the Galle district.
 - MoU on the implementation of the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) programme with the Government of India's Grant Assistance.
 - MoI between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services (SSIFS), India, and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI).
 - MoU on the implementation of Hybrid Power Projects in three islands in Jaffna.
 - MoU on Cooperation in Development of Fisheries Harbours in Sri Lanka.
6. The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has extended the validity of the **Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20** for another **six months** i.e. till **30th September 2022** to boost external commerce in goods & services. The extension is notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
7. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has recently launched the indigenously developed six new and rare **Reference Materials (RMs)**, which is the purest form of chemical required for anti-doping analysis in all WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) accredited Laboratories across the world.
- The six RMs have been developed by the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)** in collaboration with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)-Guwahati and the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.
 - These RMs will strengthen the anti-doping test.
8. **Pixxel**, a space technology startup based in Bengaluru, has launched India's first private commercial imaging satellite named '**Shakuntala (Technology Demonstrator-2)**' through the SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket under its 'Transporter-4 mission' from Cape Canaveral, USA.
- Shakuntala (TD-2) is a small satellite that can capture orbital images in more than **150 bands of colour** from the visible and infrared spectrum with a resolution of 10-meters per pixel.
 - It is a part of Pixxel's 36-satellite planned constellation.
9. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal and Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan have signed the **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**

(ECTA), in a virtual ceremony in presence of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison.

- This agreement will provide zero-duty access to **96%** of India's exports to Australia.
- It will help in doubling bilateral trade from \$27 billion to \$50 billion in five years.
- It will create 10 lakh additional jobs in India over five years.
- India will be offering zero duty access in over **70 percent** of its tariff lines for Australia.
- Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's 9th largest partner.

Major exports by India to Australia includes: petroleum products, textiles and apparels, engineering goods, leather, chemicals and gems and jewellery.

Major imports includes: raw materials, minerals and intermediate goods.

10. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a conclave, organized by the Indian Air Force (IAF), at Air Force Station, Hakimpet, Telangana to commemorate **60 years** of glorious service by **Chetak Helicopter** in IAF. During the conclave, the Union Minister has also released a Special Cover, a Coffee Table Book, and a Commemorative Movie on Chetak Helicopters.

- Chetak Helicopters are manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The IAF inducted the French-origin helicopters, called Alouette III (Chetak), in 1962.
- HAL handed over its first licence-produced Chetak (Alouette III) to IAF in 1965.

11. The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has decided to merge four of its film media units, namely the Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archive of India, and Children's Film Society, India with the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**, a Public sector undertaking working under the Ministry.

- The Union Government has also allocated **Rs. 1304.52 crore** till **2026** for film production and preservation, film festivals, and providing financial incentives for audiovisual productions with foreign countries, which will be implemented through NFDC.

12. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Nepalese counterpart **Sher Bahadur Deuba** have met in New Delhi and launched multiple initiatives as well as signed four crucial agreements in multiple fields.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both the countries:

- MoU for enhancing technical cooperation in Railway sector.
- MoU for supply of petroleum products between Nepal Oil Corporation & Indian Oil Corporation.
- MoU for sharing technical expertise between Nepal Oil Corporation & Indian Oil Corporation.

- **Nepal** becomes the **105th member** of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing framework agreement.

Projects Inaugurated:

Jaynagar-Kurtha railway section:

- It is the first broad gauge train service between **Jayanagar (Bihar)** and **Kurtha in Nepal**.
- It is a part of the Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link being constructed with grant assistance of Rs.548 crore from India.
- It is a 35 km rail section, 3 km of which lies in the Indian state of Bihar and the rest in Nepal.

Solu Corridor:

- Solu Corridor 132 KV power transmission line and sub-station in Nepal was built under the Government of India's Line of Credit.
- The 90 km 132 kV Double Circuit line connects the remote Solukhumbu, Khotang, and Okhaldhunga districts of North Eastern Nepal with Nepal's national electricity grid.

RuPay Card:

- Indian RuPay card has been launched in Nepal.
- With this, Nepal has become the **4th country** to use Indian RuPay Card after Bhutan, UAE, and Singapore.

13. The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK)** to promote commerce education among the government and government-aided secondary and higher secondary school students of the Union Territory. It has been signed for a period of **5 years**.

14. **Union Minister for Science and Technology** Dr Jitendra Singh has launched a major futuristic PPP (Public Private Participation) model initiative for 'Clean Energy' named "**Mission Integrated Bio-refineries**" to accelerate Clean Energy solutions through Public-Private Alliances.

Aim: To develop innovative solutions to accelerate the commercialization of integrated bio-refineries, with a goal of replacing **10%** of fossil-based fuels, chemicals, and materials with bio-based alternatives by **2030**.

He has also launched three **Material Acceleration Platforms (MAP)**, set up by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

- Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Storage
- Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Materials
- Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Bioenergy & Hydrogen

The platforms are launched with a total outlay of **USD 6 million**.

15. The **Stand up India scheme**, which was launched by the central government on **5th April 2016**, has completed **six years**. Under the initiative, the government has sanctioned Rs.30,160 crore to a total of 1,33,995 accounts up to March 2022.

- **Objective:** To encourage entrepreneurship at grassroot level to foster economic empowerment and job creation, especially among SC, ST and women entrepreneurs.
- The scheme facilitate bank loans between **Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore** to at least one SC and ST borrower and at least one borrower per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield enterprise.
- The scheme has been extended till **2025**.

16. Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav has launched an awareness mascot '**Prakriti**' & other green initiatives for effective plastic waste management. Prakriti has been launched to spread mass awareness about how the adoption of small changes in our lifestyle can play a big role in environmental sustainability.

Other Green Initiatives:

- National Dashboard on Elimination of Single-Use Plastic and Plastic Waste Management (MoEFCC)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Portal for Plastic Packaging (CPCB)
- Mobile App for Single-Use Plastics Grievance Redressal (CPCB)
- Monitoring module for single-use plastic (CPCB)
- Industrial production of Graphene from Waste Plastic (G B Pant NIHE & NRDC)

These initiatives has taken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.

17. The Government of India (GoI) has appointed a **17-member advisory committee for semiconductor manufacturing** in India. It has been constituted to provide key inputs for building a resilient supply chain, promoting investments, financing mechanisms, global engagement, research & innovation, and IP generation for the semiconductors and display ecosystem and enable an ecosystem to support startups and MSMEs.

- **Chairman: Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Vice-chairperson:** Rajeev Chandrashekhar, Minister of State, MeitY
- **Convenor:** Secretary (MeitY)
- **Other members:** Vinod Dham, founder of Indo-US Venture Partners, Ajit Manocha, president of US-based SEMI, Neelkanth Mishra from Credit Suisse, Prof. A Paulraj, Emeritus Professor at Stanford University, Prof. Pradeep Khosla, chancellor, University of

California San Diego, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras and Dr. Ajai Chowdhry, co-founder of HCL.

- The Committee shall meet at least once in three months.
- The term of the committee is one year.

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

- **Objective:** To develop a national One Health roadmap based on the learnings of the pilot project implementation.
- The 'One Health India' program is initiated by DAHD. The program will work with stakeholders from various sectors to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health, and environmental health through technology and finance

19. Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi has launched the website '**Temple 360**' in New Delhi under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is a digital platform where anyone can visit or do darshan of 12 Jyotirlinga and Char Dham from any location. The website also allows a devotee to perform e-Aarti, e-Prashad, and several other services.

20. The Union **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has launched the **Broadcast Seva Portal** for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licenses, permissions, registrations, etc.

- The portal will facilitate stakeholders in seeking permissions, applying for registration, tracking applications, calculating fees and executing payments.
- The portal has features like End-to-end processing, Integration with payment system (Bharat Kosh) and stakeholder ministries, analytics, reporting and Management Information System (MIS), application forms and status tracking, downloading letters/orders from the portal itself, alerts to stakeholders (SMS/E-Mails).

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STATES AFFAIRS

21. Vegetable Production for the FY2021-22:

- **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as the top vegetable producer in FY2021-22 with 29.8 MT production.
- It is followed by West Bengal with 28.23 MT, and Madhya Pradesh with 20.59 MT production.

Fruit Production for the FY2021-22:

- **Andhra Pradesh** has emerged as the top fruit producer in FY2021-22 with 18.01 MT production.
- It is followed by Maharashtra with 12.30 MT, and Uttar Pradesh with 11.26 MT production.

22. The state government of **Karnataka** has announced to launch '**Vinaya Samarasya Yojana**'. It is an awareness programme to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats located across the state.
- The initiative was named after Vinay, a three-year-old Dalit kid who strayed into a temple in Miyapur hamlet in Karnataka's Koppal district to seek shelter from the rain in September 2021.
 - The scheme will be launched on 14th April 2022 on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti.
23. The state government of **Uttar Pradesh** has launched the '**School Chalo Abhiyan**' to ensure 100 percent enrolment in primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh. It is being started in the Shravasti district because of its lowest literacy rate (46.74%).
24. **Mumbai International Cruise Terminal** is expected to be commissioned by **July 2024**. The total outlay for the project is **Rs.495 crore**. It is a first-of-its-kind iconic sea cruise terminal in India which will be coming up at BPX-Indira Dock in Maharashtra. The terminal will have a capacity of handling 200 ships and 1 million passengers per annum.
25. The state government of **Assam** has approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the State Environment and Forest Department and **Agence Francaise de Development**, a French funding agency, to foster bilateral dialogue in the field of environment. This will enhance cooperation between the forest department and international stakeholders of Africa, Asia and France regarding biodiversity conservation in the Indo-Pacific region.
26. The **Punjab Mandi Board** has launched the digital '**J Form**' to bring transparency as well as to empower farmers. This will make Punjab the first state in the country to provide digitised form J in real-time.
- 'J form' is the sale receipt of a farmer's **agricultural produce** in mandis (grain market).

- These forms will be delivered directly on a farmer's WhatsApp number immediately after a sale is confirmed on the system by the arthiyas and buyers, who are mainly government procurement agencies.
- These can be used for raising finance from financial institutions, IT waivers, subsidy claims, farmers insurance.

- 27. Leh Administration** will sign a tripartite agreement to develop **Hanle as Dark Sky Sanctuary**. The Leh Hill Council, Wild Life and Tourism departments will jointly develop the area for Astrotourism.
- A dark sky sanctuary promotes proper illumination where and when it is needed without wasting energy and polluting other areas, especially the night sky, which does not require illumination.
 - Ladakh Administration has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Astrophysics to promote astro-tourism in the region.
- 28.** The state of **Meghalaya** will host the 83rd **National Table Tennis Championship 2022** at SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong from 18th to 25th April 2022.
- 29.** The state government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched '**Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana**' at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre to provide collateral free loans up to **Rs.50 lakhs** to educated youth through banks for setting up their own enterprise/self-employment. The scheme has set a target to benefit one lakh youths in FY23.
- 30. Arunachal Pradesh** State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) has signed an agreement with **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - India** to develop the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP). The agreement has been signed in New Delhi during a meeting presided by State Environment and Forest Minister Mama Natung. This will align with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Pakke Declaration.
- 31.** The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched the '**Kaaval Uthavi**' app to provide assistance in 60 areas to the general public, especially women. The app also has the facility for filing mobile-based complaint and location sharing facility.
- 32.** The state government of **Manipur** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung Data System India Pvt Ltd and Abhitech IT Solutions to set up a 'Sports Digital Experience Centre' in Imphal.

33. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Governor of Karnataka, TC Gehlot have launched the new logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the **Khelo India University Games 2021** (KIUG 2021) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The theme song has been composed by Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty.

- The 2nd edition of KIUG 2021 will be held in **Karnataka** between 24th April and 3rd May 2022.
- It will be hosted by Jain University in Bengaluru.
- **Logo:** It features the iconic Vidhana Soudha building, the Legislative House in Bengaluru, with two elephants on either side.
- **Mascot:** 'Veera' (Elephant)

Khelo India University Games is an initiative by the Indian government to identify young talents at the university level and help them turn into professional athletes.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

34. The **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** has signed the loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi, to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to a total of **312.258 billion yen** for **seven projects**.

(1) Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) (III)
• Loan amount: 116.52 billion yen
• Completion of project: May 2025
(2) Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) (II)
• Loan amount: 73 billion yen
• Completion of project: June 2027
(3) Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3) (II)
• Loan amount: 37.068 billion yen
• Completion of project: December 2025
(4) North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 6)
• Loan amount: 23.129 billion yen
• Completion of project: March 2026
(5) Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project
• Loan amount: 6.401 billion yen
• Completion of project: December 2028
(6) Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response

- Loan amount: 10.535 billion yen

- Completion of project: July 2030

(7) Assam Health System Strengthening Project

- Loan amount: 45.605 billion yen

- Completion of project: April 2027

35. A National Panel Discussion on Safe Migration has been organized at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi. It has been organized by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** in partnership with **NITI Aayog**. The conclave aims to initiate, contribute to, and support a holistic analysis on and of the core areas of migration.

36. Madagascar has become the **30th country** to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (**CDRI**), which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.

- The CDRI is a global partnership that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
- The Headquarters of the CDRI secretariat is in New Delhi.

37. China has launched the world's largest electric cruise ship named '**Yangtze River Three Gorges 1**'. The ship made its maiden voyage in Yichang, Hubei, China. The total cost of the ship is around USD 23.5 million. The ship has been powered by a 7,500-kilowatt-hour massive-sized marine battery.

REPORTS & INDICES

38. Hurun Research Institute has released the list of **Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022**.

Globally:

- **Wu Yajun (China)**, co-founder of Longfor, is the world's richest self-made woman billionaire with a wealth of \$17 billion.
- She is followed by Fan Hongwei (China) and Wang Laichun (China).

India:

- **Falguni Nayar** has been featured in the top 10 list of Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022.
 - She has been **ranked 10th** with a wealth of USD 7.6 billion.
- Radha Vembu, co-founder of Zoho, has been ranked 25th with a wealth of USD 3.9 billion.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been ranked 26th with a wealth of USD 3.8 billion.

- 39.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its latest Asian Development Outlook, has projected India's GDP to grow at **7.5%** in FY23 and 8% in FY24.
- South-Asian economies collectively will grow at 7% in 2022 and 7.4% in 2023. It will be followed by South-East Asia with 4.9% and East Asia with 4.7% in 2022.
 - Inflation in India will be at 5.8% in 2022 and 5% in 2023.
- 40.** India's trade deficit has increased by **87.5%** from **USD 102.63 billion** in 2020-21 to **USD 192.41 billion** in 2021-22. In March 2022, India's trade deficit was USD 18.69 billion. The reason behind this rise is the sharp increase in petroleum imports due to the surge in global crude oil prices.
- Note:** Trade deficit refers to amount by which the cost of a country's imports exceeds its exports.
- 41.** As per the latest data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the overall unemployment rate in India has declined from 8.1 percent in February 2022 to **7.6 percent** in March 2022.
- As per the data, **Haryana** has recorded the highest unemployment rate in March at **26.7 percent**, followed by Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir at 25 percent each, Bihar at 14.4 percent, Tripura at 14.1 percent, and West Bengal at 5.6 percent.
 - **Chhattisgarh** has been ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate of **0.6 percent**, followed by Madhya Pradesh (1.4%) and Karnataka & Gujarat with 1.8 percent each.
- 42.** The Economic Outlook Survey of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has stated that India's GDP will grow at **7.4 percent** in FY23.
- As per the survey, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to start a rate hike cycle in the second half of 2022, while a repo rate hike of **50-75 bps** is expected by the end of the current fiscal.
 - Agriculture and allied activities are projected to grow at 3.3 percent for the financial year 2022-23, while industry and services sectors are projected to grow at 5.9 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively.
- 43.** Forbes has released the 36th annual ranking of the **World's Billionaires List 2022**. As per the list, **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has topped the list with a net worth of **USD 219 billion**, followed by Jeff Bezos (Amazon) and Bernard Arnault, CEO of LVMH.
- **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman of Reliance Industries, has been ranked **10th** on the list with a net worth of USD 90.7 billion.
 - He is followed by Gautam Adani (Rank 11th) with a net worth of USD 90 billion.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 44. MG Motor India** has introduced its one-stop digital car finance platform named “**MG e-Pay**”. It is the industry's first End-to-End Online Auto Finance Platform.
- **Objective:** To provide transparent and convenient online car purchase solutions.
 - The entity has partnered with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime, and Axis Bank for this platform.
- 45.** According to a US Securities and Exchange Commission, **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla, has acquired a **9.2%** stake in **Twitter Inc.** With this, he has become the largest shareholder of the company by owning 73.48 million shares in the company.
- **Twitter Established:** 2006
 - **CEO:** Parag Agrawal
- 46.** Redemption Digital Technology Private Limited has soft-launched India's first KYC-compliant crypto token named '**Redemption**'. It is a unique crypto token with which users can earn investing time, instead of money. It is an emerging Web 3.0 Technology base, patent-filed crypto token that is developed on Binance Smart Chain (BSC) BEP20 protocol.
- 47.** The **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Tawazun Economic Council (TEC), UAE** to explore new business opportunities in various areas of mutual interest in the field of defence.
- 48. NTPC Limited** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL)** to blend Green Hydrogen in piped natural gas (PNG) network of GGL at the NTPC Kawas facility.
- Green hydrogen will be produced by using electricity from the existing 1 MW floating solar project of NTPC Kawas.
 - GGL is India's largest city gas distribution (CGD) company.
- 49. Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** to convert civil passenger aircraft to “multi mission tanker transport” (MMTT) aircraft in India. The scope of the MoU also covers ‘passenger to freighter aircraft’ conversion, along with MMTT conversions.
- 50.** The Government of India (GoI) has collected **Rs.1,42,095 crore** in goods and services tax (GST) in March 2022. It is highest collections since the launch of GST in July 2017.

- This is 15% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year and 46% higher than the receipts in March 2020.
- The central government collected Rs.25,830 crore as central GST, while states collected Rs.32,378 crore as state GST.

- 51.** The Flipkart Group has launched the **Flipkart Foundation** with focus on rural areas and providing equitable access to growth opportunities for women and other disadvantaged communities. It aims to empower 20 million lives directly and indirectly in the next decade.
- 52.** Flipkart has launched the **Flipkart Health+** app to enable access to medicines and healthcare products from independent sellers. The platform delivers products across 20,000 pin codes in India. It can also be accessed on low bandwidth.
- **Prashant Jhaveri** has been appointed as the CEO of Flipkart Health +.
 - He served as the chief business officer at Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited.
 - He also served as the CEO of MediBuddy, and chief business officer for the Medi Assist Group.
- 53.** The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed an agreement with **HSBC India** to establish a **USD 100 million** partial guarantee program for Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in India. The aim is to support 4 lakh micro-borrowers and women-run microenterprises across India.
- 54.** **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has collaborated with **Payments Canada** to transform its payment system operations and help implement the Real-Time Rail (RTR) payment system. This collaboration will allow Canadians to initiate payments and receive irrevocable funds in seconds, 24 by 7 by 365.
- 55.** Indian Oil Corporation (**IOC**), Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**), and **ReNew Power** have partnered to set up a joint venture (JV) company to develop the **green hydrogen sector** in India.

Aim: To supply green hydrogen at an “industrial scale”. Green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis of water using renewable energy.

Indian Oil and L&T have also partnered to form a separate JV to manufacture and sell electrolyzers used in the production of green hydrogen.

- 56.** India has contributed **USD 500,000** to the United Nations (UN) Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, for their core budget.
- In 2021, India contributed USD 300,000 to the UN Women.
 - Gender Equality is the 5th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.

- 57.** The Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) has signed an agreement with **Adani Ports** and SEZ Limited to set up an **Indian Economic Zone** at the **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar** (BSMSN) in Mirsarai of **Chattogram**, Bangladesh.
- The Indian Economic Zone will provide facilities for Indian investors in Bangladesh.
 - It is being built on 857 acres of land with an estimated cost of Taka 964 crore supported by an Indian Line of Credit worth USD 115 million.
 - A Memorandum of understanding was signed between Bangladesh and India in June 2015 to establish an Indian economic zone.
- 58.** Tata Power Renewables Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has installed a **300 MW** solar plant in **Dholera**, Gujarat. It is India's largest single-axis solar tracker system.
- The project will generate **774 Million Units (MUs)** of Renewable energy annually.
 - This will reduce approximately 704340 MT/year of carbon emission.
- 59.** **Tata Group** has recently launched its super app named '**Tata Neu**'. It is the conglomerate's super app that brings together all of its digital services and apps on a single platform. It will bring together aeroplanes, hotels, medicines, and groceries on a single platform. The app gives Neu Coins as an incentive for spending, which can be exchanged for other services.
- 60.** **Microsoft** has launched its '**Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub**' in India. It is a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders that offers over USD 300,000 worth of benefits and credits, giving startups free access to the technology, tools, and resources they need to build and run their businesses. It is designed specifically for early-stage startups.
- 61.** Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, has maintained the status quo and retained the **Interest rates on Small Savings Scheme** unchanged for the **1st Quarter** for the **Financial Year 2022-23** (April 2022 to June 2022) same as Q4 FY22.

Interest Rates on Small Savings Instruments for Q1 FY23				
Small Savings Scheme		Maturity (Years)	Rate of interest	Compounding Frequency
Public Provident Fund (PPF)		15	7.1%	Annually
Post Office Savings Accounts (SB)		-	4.0%	Annually
Term Deposits	1 Year	1	5.5%	Quarterly

	2 Years	2	5.5%	Quarterly
	3 Years	3	5.5%	Quarterly
	5 Years	5	6.7%	Quarterly
National Savings Recurring Deposit Account		5	5.8%	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SSCS)		5	7.4%	Quarterly and Paid
NSC (VIII issue)		5	6.8%	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)		124 months	6.9%	Annually
Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) scheme		21	7.6%	Annually
Monthly Income Scheme (MIS)		5	6.6%	Monthly and Paid

62. The Central government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has planned to borrow **Rs. 8.45 lakh crore** or **60%** in the **first half (H1)** or April-September period of **FY2022-23**.

- As per the Union Budget document, the gross market borrowing through dated securities for 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 14,95,000 crore.
- The borrowing is scheduled to be completed in 26 weekly tranches of Rs 32,000-33,000 crore and will be spread under 2, 5, 7, 10, 14, 30 and 40 year securities and Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs) of various tenors.
- The gross borrowing for 2021-22 was Rs 12, 05,500 crore.

63. Ergos Business Solutions Pvt Ltd has launched a digital platform "**GrainBank**" to provide valuable information and income to farmers on their farm produce.

- GrainBank is farmer relationship based post-harvest solutions for farmers to digitize its grain, which is directly accessible to lenders and processors, and can buy online directly from them.
- The platform is able to analyze farmers' profiles and their crop related data, which helps to analyse most suitable services in the most cost effective manners.

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BANKING & FINANCE

64. HDFC Bank has partnered with **Shoppers Stop**, India's leading fashion and beauty destination, to launch co-branded credit cards. The credit cards will be available for over 8 million "First Citizen" customers of Shoppers Stop along with HDFC Bank customers.

Objective: To provide an elevated shopping experience in a convenient manner.

The credit cards will be available in two categories:

- Shoppers Stop HDFC Bank Credit Card
- Shoppers Stop BLACK HDFC Bank Credit Card

65. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has made **Positive Pay System (PPS)** mandatory for the cheque of **Rs. 10 lakhs and above**. This is effective from 4th April 2022. The aim is to protect clients from large-value check fraud.

Positive Pay System (PPS): It is developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. In this, a customer issuing the high-value cheque has to reconfirm some essential details, which are cross-checked while presenting the cheque in clearing before payment. These details are to be shared with the bank at least 24 working hours before the cheque is presented for clearing.

PNB had introduced PPS for cheques of Rs. 50,000 and above presented in Cheque Truncation System (CTS) clearing from 1st January 2021.

66. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a **Rs.25 lakh** fine on 5 entities for indulging in "non-genuine trades" in stock options on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). It has fined Rs.5 lakh each on Dhanwantri Suppliers Pvt Ltd, Dayanidhi Mercantile Pvt Ltd, Sanjay Agarwal HUF, Radhika Sarraf and Ankit Garg HUF.

67. IFS Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who is currently serving as India's ambassador to Nepal, has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of India. He will succeed Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will superannuate on 30th April 2022.

- He is a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.
- He has also served in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office (PMO) from 2015 to 2017.
- He also served as India's ambassador to France.

- 68. Union Bank of India (UBI)** has launched its super app named '**UnionNXT**' as part of its digital transformation project "Sambhav" The objective is to focus on providing pre-approved personal loans, pensioner loans, Mudra loans, MSME loan auto-renewal services, and farmer loans auto-renewal services to customers. The lender aims to have 50 percent business originating on the digital platform by 2025.
- 69. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced **Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI)** to replace Power of Attorney (PoA) for the purpose of pledging and repledging of stocks for margin purpose. This will come into effect from **1st July 2022**. It will be registered in the client demat account.
- 70. SEBI** has also barred the launch of **New Fund Offer (NFO)** or launching of fresh schemes by mutual funds until the mutual fund industry complies with SEBI's new norms. The deadline for meeting the norms is extended by 3 months from 1st April 2022 to 1st July 2022.
- 71. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a 6-member committee to strengthen governance norms at stock exchange and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).
- The 6-member committee will be chaired by **G Mahalingam**, former whole-time member of SEBI.
 - Other members: J N Gupta, MD of Stakeholders Empowerment Services; Aarti Nihalani, Partner, Oliver Wyman; Sandip Bhagat, Partner, S&R Associates; and Uttam Bagri, former chairman, BSE Brokers Forum, and MD and CEOs of stock exchanges NSE and BSE, and depositories NSDL and CDSL.
- 72. Bank of Baroda** has acquired a **21% stake** of Union Bank of India (UBI) in **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Ltd (IFLIC)**, a joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Carmel Point Investments, for a cash consideration of Rs.766.29 crore.
- With this, Bank of Baroda will now hold a 65% stake, Carmel Point Investments India will hold a 26% stake and Union Bank of India will hold a 9% stake in IFLIC.
 - Earlier, UBI owned a 30% stake in IFLIC as a result of its acquisition of Andhra Bank.
- 73. The State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Border Security Force (BSF)** to provide special benefits to the serving and retired BSF personnel and family pensioners through the Central Armed Police Salary Package (CAPSP) Scheme.

- 74. Aegon Life Insurance Company**, a digital life insurance company, has collaborated with **Ahalia Finforex**, a Kerala-based diversified financial services firm, to provide life insurance cover to the unorganized and unserved segments residing in tier 2, tier 3, and tier 4 cities.
- 75.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the timeline for banks to use **lockable cassettes** in ATMs which can be swapped at the time of cash replenishment by one year to **31st March 2023**. Earlier, the deadline was 31st March 2022. Currently, most of the ATMs are replenished by way of open cash top-up or by loading cash in the machines on the spot.
- 76. HDFC Bank** has been named the Best Performing Bank in Self-Help Group (SHG) Linkage by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). It is the only private sector bank to be honoured with the award for their contribution in SHGs by NRLM.
- As of February 2022, the HDFC bank has offered advances of more than **Rs.1000 crore** under the NRLM.
 - The lender has also signed a MoU with the State Rural Livelihood Mission of 6 states: **Assam, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.
- 77.** The board of directors of **HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) Limited** has approved the merger of HDFC Investments Limited and HDFC Holdings Limited with HDFC Limited, and HDFC Ltd with **HDFC Bank**.
- This merger will be completed by **FY24**.
 - After the merger, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC Limited will own **41%** of the stake in HDFC Bank.
 - For every 25 equity shares held by HDFC shareholders, they will receive 42 equity shares of the combined company per the share exchange ratio.
- 78. PNB Housing Finance** has tied up with **Nabet India** to launch an exclusive women's health and wellness initiative. Under this initiative, Nabet India will promote livelihood for women particularly in rural areas, and will also promote health and wellness to improve their quality of life. In this initiative, Nabet India will manufacture sanitary napkins at its own facility and make them available for working women, school/college going girls and villagers in need.
- 79.** Asset management company Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund has appointed **Anthony Heredia** as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with effect from 1st April 2022. He has succeeded Ashutosh Bishnoi, who retired on 31st March 2022.

- 80.** Citigroup has announced that **Axis Bank** has acquired Citibank's India consumer banking business for a cash consideration of **USD 1.6 billion (Rs 12,325 crores)**.
- The transaction includes the sale of the consumer banking business of Citibank India, which includes credit cards, retail banking, and wealth management and consumer loans.
 - It also includes the sale of the consumer business of Citi's non-banking financial company (NBFC) Citicorp Finance (India) Limited.

Note: Citigroup had entered India in 1902 and started the consumer banking business in 1985.

- 81. Indian Overseas Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** and **AIC STPINEXT Initiatives** (a Section 8 company of STPI) to support the bank in leveraging innovation through the financial technologies engaged under the FinBlue initiative. The FinBlue initiative by STPI is an integrated programme to start-ups to scale through its incubation facility.
- 82.** The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has signed an agreement with the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** to strengthen inter-regulatory exchange of information, technical cooperation, and supervisory collaboration.
- 83.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for State Governments/UTs from Rs.51,560 crore to **Rs.47,010 crore** with effect from 1st April 2022.
- WMA is the temporary loan facility given by the RBI to the Central and State Governments. It is introduced to meet mismatches in receipts and payments of the respective governments.
 - The limit for WMA for the Government of India has been set at **Rs.1,50,000 crore** for H1 of FY23.
 - These limits are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments (Chairman: Sudhir Shrivastava).
 - The Special Drawing Facility (SDF) availed by state governments/ UTs shall continue to be linked to the quantum of their investments in marketable securities issued by the Government of India, including Auction Treasury Bills (ATBs).
 - Interest rate on SDF, WMA and OD (Overdraft) shall continue to be linked to the policy rate of the Reserve Bank i.e., the Repo Rate. Interest will be charged for all the days the advance remains outstanding.

- 84.** The Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), **Madhabi Puri Buch** has launched the ideathon '**Manthan**', to promote innovations in the securities market.

- It has been organized for a period of six-week in collaboration with NSE, BSE, CDSL, NSDL, CAMS, KFinTech, MCX, and LinkInTime.
- This ideathon will help in the creation of various innovative solutions as well as ideas that will revolve around the country's securities market.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

85. The **64th Grammy Awards 2022** has been held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. It has been presented by the Recording Academy to recognize achievements in the music industry.

S. No.	Category	Winners
1.	Album Of The Year	'We Are' by Jon Batiste
2.	Record Of The Year	'Leave the door open' by Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak
3.	Best New Artist	Olivia Rodrigo
4.	Best Rap Album	"Call Me If You Get Lost," Tyler, the Creator
5.	Best R&B Album Winner	"Heaux Tales," Jazmine Sullivan.
6.	Best Rap Song	"Jail," Kanye West featuring Jay-Z
7.	Best Country Album	"Starting Over," Chris Stapleton
8.	Song Of The Year	"Leave the Door Open," Silk Sonic (Brandon Anderson, Christopher Brody Brown, Dernst Emile II and Bruno Mars)
9.	Best Rock Album	"Medicine at Midnight," Foo Fighters
10.	Best Rock Song	"Waiting On a War," Foo Fighters
11.	Best Dance/Electronic Album	"Subconsciously," Black Coffee
12.	Producer of the Year, non-classical:	Jack Antonoff
13.	Best Music Video	"Freedom," Jon Batiste

14.	Best Country Song	"Cold," Chris Stapleton
15.	Best Folk Album	"They're Calling Me Home," Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi
16.	Best Comedy Album	"Sincerely Louis CK," Louis C.K.
17.	Best Rap Performance	"Family Ties," Baby Keem featuring Kendrick Lamar
18.	Best Rock Performance	"Making a Fire," Foo Fighters
19.	Best Music Film	"Summer of Soul"
20.	Best Musical Theatre Album	"The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical"
21.	Best Global Music	"Mohabbat," Arooj Aftab (Pakistani-American vocalist)
22.	Best Global Music Album	"Mother Nature," Angélique Kidjo
23.	Best Children's Music Album Award	"A Colorful World", Falguni Shah (Indian-American singer)
24.	Best Pop Duo / Group Performance	Doja Cat and SZA for "Kiss Me More"
25.	Best American Roots Performance	"Cry," Jon Batiste

- 86.** Mumbai-based journalist **Aarefa Johari** has won the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Mediaperson 2021. She works for Scroll in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- 87.** Noted poet and litterateur Prof **Ramdarash Mishra** (Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh) will be honoured with the prestigious **Saraswati Samman 2021** for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee, whose current head is Dr Subhash C Kashyap.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- 88.** A new book titled '**Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises**' has been authored by **Dr. Sreeram Chaulia**. The book examines some of the most consequential recent crises that India has faced vis-à-vis China and Pakistan and delves into the debate

about India's strategic culture and the role of political leadership in transforming strategic culture. The book is published by Rupa Publications.

89. A new book titled **"Queen of Fire"** has been authored by an award-winning children's writer **Devika Rangachari**. The book depicts the story of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi. The book is published by Duckbill Books.

Other books are written by her: Queen of Ice, Queen of Earth, Puffin Lives: Swami Vivekananda: A Man with a vision, etc.

90. **Meena Nayyar**, Mother of Captain Anuj Nayyar, has authored a book titled **'Tiger of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero'**. The book has been co-authored by **Himmat Singh Shekhawat**. It is published by HarperCollins India. The book features the story of Captain Anuj Nayyar, who martyred during the 1999 Kargil War while fighting to secure the Drass sector which was critical to the success of Operation Vijay and India's victory in Kargil.

91. A new book titled **"The Maverick Effect: The Inside Story of India's IT Revolution"** has been authored by **Harish Mehta**. The book is published by HarperBusiness. The book depicts the untold story of how in the 1970s and 80s a 'band of dreamers' joined hands to create the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and pave the way for the IT revolution in India.

92. Union Education and Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has released a book titled **"Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak"**. The book has been authored by Prof. **Alok Chakrawal**, Vice Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur. The book depicts the struggle of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the contribution of forest dwellers in the freedom movement.

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PERSON IN NEWS

93. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed **Dr. Arunabha Ghosh**, CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), to the 'High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities'.

- He will be among three Asians (and the only South Asian) serving on the expert group.

- The 16-member expert group will be chaired by **Catherine McKenna**, former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- **Group objective:** To develop stronger and clearer standards for net-zero emissions pledges by non-State entities such as businesses, investors, cities, and regions.

- 94. Dr S Raju** has become the new Director-General of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** with effect from 1st April 2022. He has succeeded R. S. Garkhal.
- 95.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **Murali M. Natrajan** as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of DCB Bank for a period of two years i.e. from 29 April 2022 to 28 April 2024.
- 96.** The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has appointed **Dr Ian Fry**, who holds dual citizenship in Tuvalu and Australia, as the **world's first independent expert on human rights and climate change** for a period of 3 years.
- He will be responsible for studying and identifying how the adverse effects of climate change, including sudden and slow-onset disasters, affect the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and make recommendations on how to address and prevent these adverse effects.
 - The position of Special Rapporteur for human rights and climate change was created by UNHRC in October 2021.
- 97.** Prime Minister Imran Khan has nominated former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Gulzar Ahmed, as caretaker Prime Minister. This decision has been made due to the resignation of Imran Khan, as he failed to prove majority in the Parliament.
- 98. Vikas Kumar** has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). He has succeeded Mangu Singh.
- 99.** Aleksandar Vucic has been re-elected as the President of Serbia for the second term by winning the presidential election 2022. He is associated with Serbian Progressive Party.
- 100.** The vice-chancellor of Indraprastha University (IPU) Dr. **Mahesh Verma** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).
- NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI).
 - It is responsible for setting benchmarks for quality and certifying hospitals and other health facilities.

- 101. Viktor Orban** has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of **Hungary** for the fourth term in a row since 2010. He has won the General Election of 2022. He is the leader of the Fidesz party.
- 102.** A new book titled "**Decoding Indian Babudom**" has been authored by **Ashwini Shrivastava**. This is a first-of-its-kind book by a journalist covering bureaucracy lists the ailments of India's administrative system from a common man's point of view. The book suggests "**15 Sutras**" to achieve good and effective governance in the country. The book is published by Vitasta Publishing Pvt Ltd.
- 103.** PharmEasy, a pharmacy platform, has appointed Bollywood actor **Aamir Khan** as its brand ambassador. He will be seen endorsing the brand in the new campaign #GharBaitheBaitheTaketEasy. Television advertisements featuring him will also be a part of the Indian Premier League 2022.
- 104. Aprajita Sharma** of India, an IP&TAF Service officer, has been appointed vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management at the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Council sessions held in Geneva, Switzerland. She will continue to serve as vice-chairperson of the Council Standing Committee in 2023 and 2024, and as chairman in 2025 and 2026.

OBITUARIES

- 105. Richard Howard**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet, has passed away recently in New York, USA. He was born on 13th October 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio, United States.
- He won the Pulitzer-Prize for "**Untitled Subjects**" in **1970** and was a National Book Award finalist in 2008 for "Without Saying."
 - His translation of Charles Baudelaire's "Les Fleurs du Mal" won the National Book Award (then called the American Book Award) in 1983.
 - Other poetry by him: Two-Part Inventions, Lining Up, Fellow Feelings, Damages, etc.

SPORTS

- 106. Australian cricket team** has won the **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022** title by defeating England in the finals held at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand. Australia has won its **7th** ICC Women's World Cup title.

Player of the Match: **Alyssa Healy** (Australia)

- She has also been named as the 'Player of Tournament' for scoring 509 runs in 9 matches.

Sophie Ecclestone (England) is the leading wicket-taker in the tournament, with 21 wickets in 9 matches.

The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the 12th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. The tournament has been held in New Zealand from 4 March to 3 April 2022.

- 107.** The 2022 Miami Open Tennis Tournament has been held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, USA.

2022 Miami Open Tennis Tournament	
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)
Men's Doubles	Hubert Hurkacz (Poland) and John Isner (USA)
Women's Doubles	Laura Siegemund (Germany) and Vera Zvonareva (Russia)

- 108.** The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has unveiled **La'eeb** as the official mascot for FIFA World Cup 2022.

- La'eeb is an Arabic word meaning 'super-skilled player'.
- La'eeb encourages everyone to believe in themselves as 'Now is All'.

Note: Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup from 21st November to 18th December 2022.

- 109.** Sports brand **Adidas** has unveiled the official match ball '**Al Rihla**' (a name that translates from Arabic into English as "the journey") for the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**. It is the 14th successive ball that Adidas has created for the FIFA World Cup.

Note: Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup from 21st November to 18th December 2022.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- 110. Odisha Day**, also known as Utkal Divas, is observed annually on **1st April** to commemorate the formation of the state as a separate state out of Bihar and Orissa Province with the addition of Koraput and Ganjam from the Madras Presidency on 1st April 1936.
- The year 2022 marks the **87th foundation day** of the state.
 - The state was originally called Orissa, but the Lok Sabha passed the Orissa Bill, and the Constitutional Bill (113th Amendment), in March 2011, which changed its name to Odisha.

- 111. World Autism Awareness Day** is observed annually on **2nd April** to spread awareness about the disorder and also to support those who are suffering from Autism.
- **Theme 2022:** "Inclusive Quality Education for All"
 - The day was first observed in 2008.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a development disorder characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication.

- 112. International Children's Book Day** is observed annually on **2nd April** to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. The day is also observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the renowned fairy-tale writer Hans Christian Andersen.
- The day was first observed in 1966 by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).
 - **Canada** has hosted International Children's Book Day 2022.
 - **Theme 2022:** 'Stories are wings that help you soar every day'

- 113. International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action** is observed annually on **4th April** to create awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.
- **Theme 2022:** "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home"
 - The day was first observed in 2006.

- 114. National Maritime Day** is observed annually on **5th April** to create awareness about international trade and the economy. The year 2022 marks the 59th edition of the National Maritime Day.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Propelling Indian Maritime Industry to Net Zero'
 - The day was first observed in 1964.
 - The saga of Indian shipping first began on **5th April 1919**, when the SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited travelled from Mumbai to the United Kingdom (London).

- 115. International Day of Conscience** is observed annually on **5th April** to highlight the importance of conscience and its role in stopping people from harming others physically, sexually, orally or mentally. The day was first observed in 2020.
- 116. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)** is observed annually on **6th April** to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the globe.
- **Theme 2022:** "Securing a Sustainable and Peaceful Future for All: The Contribution of Sport"
 - The day was first observed in 2014.
- 117. World Table Tennis Day** is observed annually on **6th April** to highlight table tennis as a driving force for development and peace and its ability to connect people across the world. The day was first observed in 2015. The day is the initiative of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) based in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 118. Prevention of Blindness Week** is observed annually across India from **1st April to 7th April** to raise awareness against the causes of blindness and the ways to prevent them. The week is organized by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, India (NSPB-I).
- Additional Information:**
The **National Society for the Prevention of Blindness-India** was formed based on the resolution of the National Association for the Blind in 1959. The Society was registered on 24th August, 1960 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the then Health Minister, Government of India was elected as its first President. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was its Chief Patron in 1962.
- 119. World Health Day** is observed annually on **7th April** to raise awareness about the ongoing health issues that concern people across the world. The day also marks the foundation of the World Health Organization (WHO) on 7th April 1948.
- **Theme 2022:** Our Planet, Our Health
 - The day was first observed in 1950.

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