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April 2022 - Week 2

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, under the Ministry of Commerce, has released the provisional figures stating that India's agricultural exports have increased by **19.92%** during FY22 to **USD 50.21 billion**. This is for the first time that India's agriculture exports have crossed USD 50 billion in FY22.
 - As per the data, the highest ever exports have been achieved for staples like rice (USD 9.65 billion), wheat (USD 2.19 billion), sugar (USD 4.6 billion), and other cereals (USD 1.08 billion).
 - The exports of marine products have also reached the highest ever at USD 7.71 billion.
 - Spices exports have touched USD 4 billion for the second year in a row.
 - Coffee exports have crossed USD 1 billion for the first time.
2. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the logo of **“Nandini Ksheera Samurdhi Sahakar Bank”**. This cooperative bank has been set up for milk producers in **Karnataka**.
 - With this, Karnataka has become the only state in the country to set up an exclusive bank for milk producers.
 - The state government has provided Rs.100 crore as its share capital and the Milk Federation and Cooperatives will contribute Rs.260 crore as their share of capital for the proposed cooperative bank.
3. The 20th meeting of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has been held at **Pakke Tiger Reserve** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. It has been organized under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
 - It is the first time in history the NTCA meeting happened outside the national capital.
 - During the meeting, NTCA has released Standard Operating Protocol to deal with the reintroduction and supplementation of tigers in wild.
 - Forest Fire Audit Protocol for Tiger Reserves has also been released.
 - Technical manual on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India has been released by NTCA.
4. The University Grants Commission has approved to set up the **Bhima Bhoi Chair** at Delhi University and Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. This will encourage higher studies and research on the humanitarian philosophy of the great saint Bhima Bhoi.
5. The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has launched an **anti-human trafficking cell** to improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking, and to raise awareness among women and girls, capacity building and training of anti-trafficking units and to increase the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies.

- The Cell will conduct gender sensitization training and workshops in combating human trafficking for police officers and for prosecutors at regional, state and district levels.
 - The complaints related to human trafficking received by NCW will be addressed by this cell.
6. The **Karaikal** base of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has inducted Interceptor Boat ICGS **C-436** into its fleet. The objective is to improve the surveillance along the coastline of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.
- The indigenously built ship C-436 is the 36th interceptor boat of its series.
 - It is fitted with modern navigation and communication equipment capable of operating in tropical sea conditions and for close coast surveillance.
7. The **South-Central Railway (SCR)** has launched the "**One Station One Product**" initiative at **6 stations** across its six divisions. SCR in-charge General Manager, Arun Kumar Jain, has inaugurated stalls under the new initiative at Secunderabad Station. The stalls have also been opened at Kacheguda station.
- Fresh Water Pearl Jewellery and Hyderabad Bangles will be promoted at Secunderabad station while Pochampally products will be promoted at Kacheguda station In Telangana.
8. India's first community museum has been inaugurated in **Gya – Sasoma** villages of Leh district in **Ladakh** to preserve and take forward the rich cultural heritage of the region. The museum is a joint collaboration between National Museum Institute (NMI), New Delhi, and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh.
- Gya is the first village and oldest inhabitation in Upper Ladakh.
9. The Government of India (GoI) has allocated **25%** of the Domestic Capital Procurement/Acquisition Budget, amounting to Rs.21,149.47 crore, for domestic private industry in FY2022-23. The objective is to promote private industry, MSMEs and start-ups in defence production ecosystem.
- An amount of **Rs.1,500 crore** has also been signed for procurement from start-ups, including iDEX start-ups, within the allocated domestic capital procurement.
10. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned the latest **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) MK-III** squadron in **Bhubaneswar** in Odisha to strengthen maritime security.
- These helicopters are manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.
 - ALH-Dhruv is a twin engine, multi-role, multi-mission new generation helicopter in the 5.5 ton weight class.

- These helicopters are equipped with state-of-the art equipment like Surveillance Radar, Electro Optic Pod, Medical Intensive Care Unit, High Intensity Search Light, SAR Homer, Loud Hailer, Machine Gun and can perform other key roles.
- The major variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.

11. The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched the Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System (ODAWS), Bus Signal Priority System and Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC) software under Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor for Indian Cities Phase-II initiative. These projects have been developed as a joint initiative by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M). Mahindra and Mahindra is the industrial collaborator for the project.

- **Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System (ODAWS):** It incorporates vehicle-borne sensors for monitoring driver propensity and vehicle surroundings to deliver acoustic and visual alerts for driver assistance using algorithms.
- **Bus Signal Priority System:** It aims to improve the poor reliability of bus system to discourage public from opting personal vehicles.
- **Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC):** It is a middleware software providing standard based deployment of IoT adhering to oneM2M based global standard.

12. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** for implementation during the period from April 2022 to March 2026 to develop the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

- 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.
- This scheme will extend to all States and UTs of the country and will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.
- The central government under revamped RGSA will shift its focus towards capacitating the elected representatives of PRIs for Leadership Roles enable them to deliver on localization of SDGs principally for **nine themes**: (1) Poverty free and enhanced livelihood in villages, (2) Healthy Village, (3) Child Friendly Village, (4) Water Sufficient Village, (5) Clean and Green Village, (6) Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Village, (7) Socially Secured Village, (8) Village with Good Governance, and (9) Engendered Development in Village.
- Funding is in the ratio of 60:40 except NE and Hilly States, where the Central and State ratio will be 90:10. For all UTs, the Central share will be 100%.
- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of RGSA was approved by the Union Cabinet on 21st April 2018 for implementation from Financial Year 2018-19 to 2021-22.
- The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

13. The National Health Authority (NHA) has launched a new version of the **Health Benefits Package 2022** under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). This package has been launched in a two-day meeting titled 'Ayushman Sangam' held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

Health Benefits Package 2022:

- Under this, differential pricing has been introduced for the first time that is based on city type and the level of care.
- 365 new procedures have been added which takes the total to 1,949.
- NHA has also announced a new initiative of patient classification systems. It will be done through the International Classification of Health Intervention and ICD-11 (International classification of disease).

14. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the '**SVANidhi se Samridhhi**' program in additional **126 cities** across 14 States/ UTs in Phase 2. The aim is to cover 28 Lakh Street vendors and their families, with a total target of 20 Lakh scheme sanctions for FY 2022-23.

- 'SVANidhi se Samridhhi', an additional program of PMSVANidhi, was launched on 4th January 2021 in 125 cities in Phase 1, covering approximately 35 Lakh Street vendors and their families.
- Quality Council of India (QCI) is the implementing partner for the programme.

15. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the distribution of **fortified rice** throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN [erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)] and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) of Government of India in all States and Union Territories (UTs) by **2024** in a phased manner.

- The entire cost of rice fortification will be around **Rs.2,700 crore** per annum, which will be borne by the Govt. of India.

The following three phases are:

Phase-I: Covering ICDS and PM POSHAN in India all over by March, 2022 which is under implementation.

Phase-II: Phase I above plus TPDS and OWS in all Aspirational and High Burden Districts on stunting (total 291 districts) by March 2023.

Phase-III: Phase II above plus covering the remaining districts of the country by March 2024.

16. The **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has launched an initiative '**Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region' (AVSAR)** to encourage the talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities.
- Under this initiative, AAI will allocate space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region.
 - The space will be allotted to the self- help groups, turn on turn basis, for a duration of 15 days.
17. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the three-day **Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC)** at Air Headquarters in **New Delhi**. The theme for this Conference is 'Optimising human resources'.
- He has also launched the "**MEHAR BABA COMPETITION – II**" to provide a boost to the growing indigenous drone industry. The competition is aimed at developing technology for a "Swarm Drone based system to detect Foreign Objects on Aircraft Operating Surfaces".
18. The Government of India (GoI) has extended the scheme to provide **Rs.40 crore** grants-in-aid to the **Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC)** for **5 years** i.e. from **2021-2022 to 2025-26**.
- The scheme to provide grants-in-aid to CTRC was launched in 2015.
 - The aim is to provide an annual grant of Rs.8 crore to CTRC to meet the administrative expenses of Settlement Offices and social welfare expenses for Tibetan refugees staying in Tibetan settlements spread across 12 States/UTs in the country.
19. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** till **March 2023**. The objective of the AIM is to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across India. AIM has set the following targets to be achieved:
- Establishing 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)
 - Establishing 101 Atal Incubation Centres
 - Establishing 50 Atal Community Innovation Centres
 - Supporting 200 start-ups via the Atal New India Challenges
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. It was setup in 2016.*
20. The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Hyderabad-based **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)**, ISRO to develop the Bhuvan-Aadhar portal.

- **Bhuvan-Aadhar portal** will provide information and locations of the Aadhaar centres across India.
 - The portal will also provide a facility to search the relevant Aadhaar centres by location based on residents' requirements.
21. Three scientists (Jyoti Yadav, Mousumi Das and Sudhanshu Barway) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) along with a French astronomer Françoise Combes from College de France, Paris has discovered a faint new star-forming galaxy. The galaxy has a **'ghost-like'** appearance in the optical images because of its low disk density.
- The newly discovered galaxy is around 136 light-years away from Earth.
 - The new galaxy has been named as **UVIT J2022**.
22. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight-tested **the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** booster missile system at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- The SFDR is an **air-to-air missile** system.
 - The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds.
 - It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories such as Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.
 - It has the operational range of **350 km** and maximum speed of **Mach 4.5**.
23. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has contributed an amount of **USD 72,124** to the UNESCO Fund for **Elimination of Doping in Sport 2022**. In 2021, India contributed USD 28172 towards the UNESCO Fund.
- As per the resolution of Seventh Conference of Parties (COP7) held at Paris between 29-31 September 2019, the State Parties had agreed for contributing **1 percent** of the regular budget of respective nations to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.
 - The contributed fund will be used to support the implementation of the Fund's Operational Strategy 2020-2025.
24. The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has constituted the **AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) Promotion Task Force** to recommend ways to realize and build domestic capacity for serving Indian markets and the global demand.
- The Task Force will be headed by **Apoorva Chandra**, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- The Task Force also includes State Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and heads of education bodies and representatives of industry bodies.
- The task force will submit its first action plan within **90 days**.

25. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army have successfully flight-tested a new version of the Pinaka rocket system i.e. **Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS)** and **Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM)** rocket systems at Pokhran Firing Ranges.

- The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)**, Pune.
- It is supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, a Pune-based laboratory of DRDO.
- The enhanced range Pinaka Mk-1, which is an upgraded version, has a range of 45 km.
- The 15-foot long rocket weighs around 280 kg and can carry warheads up to 100 kg.

26. The **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** has completed its **seven years** on 8th April 2022. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **8th April 2015**, for providing loans up to **Rs.10 Lakh** to the non-corporate, non-farm small, or micro-enterprises.

Key facts:

- More than **34.42 crore** loans for an amount of 18.60 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned since launch of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
- Around 68 percent loans of the total number of loans have been sanctioned to Women Entrepreneurs.
- About 22 percent of the loans have been given to New Entrepreneurs.
- Around 23% of the loans have been given to SCs & STs borrowers, and 28% of the loans have been given to OBCs borrowers.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):

It is a flagship scheme of the Government of India to fund the unfunded. It is implemented by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance. The loans provided under PMMY are classified as MUDRA (Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency) loans. It is divided into three categories:

- **Shishu:** Covering loans up to Rs. 50,000.
- **Kishore:** Covering loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh.
- **Tarun:** Covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh.

27. India's Foreign Secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** has been appointed as the Chief Coordinator of the G20 Summit 2023. He will take charge of his new role as G20 coordinator on 1st May 2022 till December 2023.

- **India** will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.
- India will host the G20 Summit for the first time in **2023**.

- 28.** The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madars** has launched India's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee called '**Kadam**' to support people with above-knee amputees to walk in comfortable gait. It has been developed in association with Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India.
- 29.** The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the five-day long **Madhavpur Ghed Fair**, at Madhavpur Ghed, **Porbandar** in **Gujarat**. The fair starts from day of Ram Navmi in memory of marriage of **Lord Shri Krishna** and **Goddess Rukmani**. The fair is being organised by the Government of Gujarat in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture since 2018.
- 30.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) have jointly conducted the successful flight test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) '**HELINA**' in the Pokhran desert ranges, Rajasthan. The flight trials have been conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
About HELINA:
It is the third generation 'fire and forget' class missile developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad. It has a maximum range of **7 kilometres**. It has been developed for integration with choppers in both the Army and the Air Force. The Air Force version of Helina is referred to as **Dhruvastra**. The system has all weather day and night capability.
- The DRDO has designed and developed a range of anti-tank missile technologies that include the Nag, Helina MPATGM, SANT and Laser Guided ATGM for MBT Arjun.
- 31.** The **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has launched an annual one-month long people centric **fuel conservation and energy efficiency** campaign named '**Saksham 2022**'. The campaign will continue till 30th April 2022, with the tagline "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav through Green & Clean Energy".
- 32.** The **103rd Anniversary** of the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** has been observed on 13th April 2022 to pay homage to the martyrs who lost their lives in the massacre during the British rule on 13th April 1919.
- Jallianwala Bagh Massacre is also known as Massacre of Amritsar. During this massacre, British troops commanded by Brig. Gen. **Reginald Edward Harry Dyer** fired

on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in Punjab.

- 33.** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled the **third positive indigenisation list of 101 items**, comprising major equipment's and platforms, in New Delhi to develop India as a defence manufacturing hub. These weapons and platforms are planned to be indigenised progressively with effect from December 2022 to December 2027.
- 34.** The Made-in-India **Dornier 228** (Do-228) aircraft has made its first commercial aviation flight from Upper Assam's Dibrugarh to central Arunachal Pradesh's Pasighat. The aim is to boost air-connectivity in the north-eastern region of the country.
- Do-228 is manufactured by the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
 - It is the 17-seater aircraft.
 - It will be operated by Alliance Air, and will connect Dibrugarh with Pasighat and Lilabari (Assam).
- 35.** Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the Digital Dashboard for **District Ganga Committees Performance Monitoring System** to help the District Ganga Committees (DGCs) in enhancing people-river connect.

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STATES AFFAIRS

- 36.** The state government of **Gujarat** has received a loan of **Rs 7,500 crore** from the **World Bank** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** for its Mission School of Excellence project. The project aims to improve the quality of education in the state. Under this project, the state government will spend Rs. 10,000 crore in the next five years.
- 37.** The state government of **Jharkhand** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Tata Steel Foundation (TSF)** to set up an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at **Chandil** in the Seraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand. The aim is to shape more young talents of Jharkhand and make them industry ready.

- 38. Sarhul** is a festival of tribes celebrated as New Year in the state of **Jharkhand**. It is celebrated by many tribes in Jharkhand, but most notably the Munda, Ho, and Oraon tribes.
- It is celebrated during spring season or “Phaagun” till the month of June or “Jeth”.
 - It is celebrated every year in the first month of the Hindu calendar. It falls on the third day of the moon or the fortnight of 'chaitra'.
 - Sarhul literally means ‘Worship of Sal’.
 - Goddess Sarna is worshipped during the festival.
- 39.** The Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, has inaugurated the “**Amrit Samagam**”, a conference of tourism and culture ministers of the country, held in New Delhi.
- **Objective:** To discuss how far the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has progressed so far, as well as to gather best practices and ideas for methods to be used for the remainder of the celebration, particularly for impending critical initiatives.
 - During the conference, Union Minister for Tourism, G. Kishan Reddy has launched the **Utsav Portal** to showcase all events, festivals, and live darshans across India to promote different regions of the country as popular tourist destinations worldwide.
- 40.** The **megalithic stone jars** have been discovered in **Dima Hasao** district of **Assam**. There are typological and morphological similarities between the jars found at Assam with the stone jars found in Laos and Indonesia.
- At **Nuchunglo site** in Dima Hasao, 546 jars have been found making it possibly the largest site in the world.
 - Jars have three distinct shapes – biconical, cylindrical and bulbous top with conical end.
 - These were first sighted in 1929 by British civil servants James Phillip Mills and John Henry Hutton.
 - These jars were associated with mortuary rituals.
- 41.** The state government of **Andhra Pradesh** has tied up with US-based **Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet (GASP)** to produce value-added materials from garbage.
- Under this, the state government has planned to clear its 1000-km coastline of waste, particularly plastic.
 - The project will be linked with the state government’s ‘Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam’ programme.
- 42.** The **Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram** has been inaugurated by the chief minister of Tamil Nadu M K Stalin at Periyakozhuvaari Panchayat in Vanur taluk of Villupuram district in **Tamil Nadu** adjoining Puducherry. He has also laid a foundation stone for a Lotus Footwear Park which will offer employment to 6000 persons in Tindivanam Taluk of Villupuram.

43. The central government has re-appointed retired Punjab-cadre IPS officer **Iqbal Singh Lalpura** as the chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities.
- The National Commission for Minorities is a **statutory body** set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
 - It consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and 5 members and all of them shall be from amongst the minority communities.
 - Tenure: 3 years
44. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has launched an **India Alumni Portal** to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India. The minister of state for external affairs Meenakshi Lekhi has launched the portal in the presence of ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabuddhe.
45. The state government of **Uttarakhand** has launched an anti-corruption mobile app named '**1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App**'. This app has been developed by the Vigilance Department, Uttarakhand to root out corruption in the state. The app helps the citizens to lodge corruption-related complaints directly with the authorities. This app is available in both Hindi and English languages.
46. **Odisha Government** has signed an agreement with the **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** to set up a renewable energy plant and green hydrogen plant for providing Round the Clock (RTC) power for consumers for both domestic consumption and export. The agreement has been signed for a period of 5 years.
47. The state government of **Uttarakhand** will launch the **Him Prahari** scheme for ex-servicemen and youth. The objective is to prevent migration from villages in Udhamasinghnagar's international border districts like Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Champawat and Khatima. The total estimated expenditure of the scheme is Rs.5.45 crore.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

48. **Nepal** has recently got approval from the Central Electricity Authority of India (CEA) to export a total of **364 MW** of electricity to the Indian market during the rainy season. The surplus power generated from Kali Gandaki, Marsyangdi, Middle Marsyangdi, and Likhu 4 will be exported to India via 400 KV cross border transmission lines situated in Dhalkebar, Nepal.
49. **Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamood Al- Busaidi**, Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of **Oman**, has visited India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar.

This is the first visit of Sayyid Badr Albusaidi to India since his appointment as the Foreign Minister of Oman in August 2020.

Key highlights:

- Both the nations have decided to hold the Joint Commission Meeting for Commerce Ministers, India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group Meeting, Strategic Dialogue, and Joint Working Group on Labour.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Oman Post and India Post for issuance of an Oman-India Joint Commemorative Stamp.
- Both Ministers have agreed to finalise negotiations of the bilateral protocol on Investment and Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (DTAA).
- Oman was the first country in the region to accord approval to indigenously developed COVAXIN.

50. Pakistan has successfully flight-tested the surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile **Shaheen-III**. It has a range of 2,750 kilometres. It is solid-fuelled and equipped with the Post-Separation Altitude Correction (PSAC) system. The missile was first tested in March 2015.

51. Ecuador, a South American country, has become the first country in the world to give **legal rights** to wild animals. The country's highest court has ruled in favour of the case that focused on a woolly monkey named 'Estrellita' who was taken from her home to a zoo, where she passed just a week later.

52. The **4th edition** of the '2+2' dialogue between **India and the United States** has been organized recently in Washington DC, USA. India's External Affairs and Defence Ministers, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, have participated in the meeting with their American counterparts, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin.

Key Highlights:

- Both the countries has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** to protect the satellites of the two countries.
- 12th Ministerial-level meeting of India-US Trade Policy Forum and renewal of Working Group discussions to expand bilateral trade, remove market access barriers, and improve ease of business.
- Deepening collaboration in science & technology in the India-US Joint Technical Group (JTG) and in evolving new defence domains, including space, artificial intelligence, and cyber.

53. The 9th edition of the **India - Kyrgyzstan** Joint Special Forces Exercise "**Khanjar-2022**" has been held at **Bakloh**, Himachal Pradesh. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen the mutual

confidence & interoperability between Indian Special Forces and Kyrgyzstan Special Forces. The exercise is held annually between India and Kyrgyzstan since 2011.

- 54. China** has launched a new Earth observation satellite **Gaofen-3 03** from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre by a Long March-4C rocket. It has been developed and constructed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).
- 55. The Axiom mission (Ax-1)**, the world's first all-private astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS), has been launched by **SpaceX**. It is a joint mission of the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and Axiom Space.
- This mission is the first commercial mission to the ISS.
 - The Ax-1 crew includes Commander Michael López-Alegría of Spain and the United States, Pilot Larry Connor of the United States, and Mission Specialists Eytan Stibbe of Israel and Mark Pathy of Canada.

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REPORTS & INDICES

- 56. QS Quacquarelli Symonds** has released the 12th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022. It is compiled annually to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a particular subject.

Top 3 QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022:

- 1) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- 2) The University of Oxford
- 3) Stanford University & the University of Cambridge

Category wise Top institutes:

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

- 57. NITI Aayog** has released the **State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round-1**. The index ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely,

- (1) DISCOM's Performance
- (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy
- (3) Clean Energy Initiatives
- (4) Energy Efficiency
- (5) Environmental Sustainability
- (6) New Initiatives.

The parameters are further divided into **27 indicators**. The index is based on 2019-20 data.

Key Highlights:

- **Larger States:**

Gujarat has topped the index with a score of 50.1, followed by Kerala (49.1) & Punjab (48.6). Chhattisgarh has performed worst in the index with a score of 31.7, followed by Madhya Pradesh (32.6) & Jharkhand (35.2).

- **Smaller States:**

Goa has topped the index with a score of 51.4, followed by Tripura & Manipur. Arunachal Pradesh has performed worst in the index with a score of 27.0.

- **Union Territory:**

Chandigarh has topped the index with a score of 55.7, followed by Delhi and Daman & Diu and Dadar & Nagar Haveli. Lakshadweep has performed worst in the index with a score of 26.9.

- In the index, India's overall score on a scale of 100 stands at **40.6**. The average score at the national level for discoms' performance is 56.8 while it is 11.1 for new initiatives, which is the lowest among all parameters.

58. The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** has lowered the global trade forecast for 2022 from 4.7 percent to **3 percent** due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The forecast for 2023 is 3.4 percent.

59. The Airports Council International (ACI) has released the list of the top 10 busiest airports worldwide for 2021. As per the list, **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)**, USA has been named as the busiest airport in the world for 2021 with 75.7 million passengers, followed by Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), USA (62.5 million passengers) and Denver International Airport, USA (58.8 million passengers).

60. As per the latest data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation** has increased to **6.95%** in March 2022 as compared to 6.07% in February 2022 due to a sharp increase in food prices. It was 5.52 percent in March 2021.

- CPI-based inflation in urban India: 6.12%
- CPI-based inflation in rural India: 7.66%

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 61. Amazon** has partnered with 3 firms namely, Arianespace, Blue Origin and United Launch Alliance to deploy most of its 3,236-satellite for its **Project Kuiper**, which aims to provide high speed, low-latency broadband to a wide range of customers across the globe. The company has finalized a total of 83 launches over a period of 5 years. Project Kuiper is an initiative by Amazon to launch a constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites.
- 62.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan agreement of up to **USD 100 million** with French firm Louis Dreyfus Company B.V. (LDC) to support smallholder farmers recover from the economic challenges caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and improve their resilience to climate change impacts.
- 63.** The International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**) and **GVFL Limited** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation and collaboration to support and facilitate **FinTech ecosystem** in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT), India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- 64. Oil India Limited (OIL)** has signed an Incubation Agreement with the Start-up **Ohm Clean Tech Private Limited** for Design, Integration and Development of **9-M Hydrogen Fuel Cell** powered e-Bus, and a **Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier (LOHC)** solution. The start-up will be mentored by **IIT-Guwahati**.
- 65. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**) and Railway Energy Management Company (**REMC**) Limited for the development of renewable energy projects for the Indian Railways.
- 66.** As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the number of **domestic patent filing** has surpassed the number of international patent filing in January-March 2022 quarter. Of the total 19,796 patent applications filed, 10,706 were filed by Indian applicants and 9,090 by non-Indian applicants. The number of patent filings has been increased from 42,763 in 2014-15 to **66,440** in 2021-22 due to steps taken by the government to strengthen intellectual property rights (IPR) regime of the country.
- 67.** The Government of India (GoI) and the **Asian Development Bank** have signed a **2 million dollar** Project Readiness Financing Loan agreement for designing climate-resilient urban infrastructure, strengthening institutional capacity, and improving municipal resource

mobilization in 16 district headquarters towns in **Nagaland**. The aim is to improve urban infrastructure and services in the state.

68. The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and partners of the **Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM)** have announced **USD 2.2 million** in climate action grants for 22 local innovators across 19 countries, including India.

- The first round of funding will be done through the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) window.
- This will enhance local climate action and accelerate the delivery of targets outlined in the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

AIM is a strategic platform that promotes scaled-up adaptation at the local level, focusing on civil society, non-government organizations, and women and youth innovators. It was launched by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner at the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021.

69. **Arya.ag**, integrated grain commerce platform, has joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India, voluntarily conforming to universal sustainability principles and to support UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) by 2030.

70. India's gold imports have increased by **33.34%** to **USD 46.14 billion** during the fiscal year 2021-22. It was USD 34.62 billion in 2020-21. The increase in gold imports has contributed to the widening of the trade deficit to USD 192.41 billion, against USD 102.62 billion in 2020-21.

- India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China.
- The imports are largely driven by the jewellery industry.
- The gems and jewellery exports have increased by 50 percent to USD 39 billion during 2021-22.

71. The **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)**, under the Ministry of Steel, has won a Gold and a Silver award in the **80th SKOCH Summit** and SKOCH Awards recently conducted by SKOCH, New Delhi. The theme for the SKOCH Summit is 'State of BFSI & PSUs'.

- NMDC has won the Gold Award in the category social responsibility for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi'.
- NMDC has won the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation.

72. **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** has announced a **7-year** collaboration with **Microsoft** to help accelerate digital transformation and shape the future of innovation in the

oil and gas industry. Through this collaboration, Microsoft will also integrate cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) to help the oil and gas business optimize digitally.

73. The **Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant**, which will be the largest in Asia, will have a treatment capacity of **564 million litres per day (MLD)**. It will be set up in Delhi and is expected to be completed by December 2022. This plant will play a major role in Yamuna River Cleaning Process.

Note: According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the total sanction cost of the Okhla STP is **Rs.665.78 crore**.

BANKING & FINANCE

74. **ICICIdirect** has collaborated with **CoverStack**, a digital B2B platform for insurance services, to provide insurance products on the platform. This collaboration will allow more than 7 million customers of ICICIdirect to search, customize, compare, and buy the most suitable insurance plans for health and motor insurance, by comparing quotes and features from multiple insurance firms easily.

75. The **Union Bank of India** has signed an agreement for sale of its **8 percent** stake in **India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (ISARC)** in favour of Dhansamridhi Finance.

- ISARC is the country's first Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) which was set up in 2008.
- It is sponsored by SIDBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd.

76. **Axis Bank** has signed a Partial Guarantee Facility Agreement (PGFA) with the **Asian Development Bank** to support supply chain financing for impact sectors, especially ESG (environmental, social, and governance) and priority sectors. It has been signed with an initial outlay of **USD 150 million**.

77. Bangalore-based **Social Alpha**, a popular innovation curation & venture development platform for tech start-ups, has collaborated with **DBS Bank India** to address the global issue of food waste through sustainable solutions.

- Under this collaboration, there will be **Tectonic Innovations Towards Zero Food Waste**, a two-year program, presented by DBS and powered by Social Alpha, to identify innovative and scalable solutions by entrepreneurs to help reduce quantitative and qualitative food loss and waste across food systems and agri-food value chains.

- 78.** The **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has launched a new deposit scheme named '**Vikas Siri Sampat-1111**'. The scheme is of limited tenor of 1,111 days with interest rate of 5.70% for general public and 6.20 % for senior citizens. Under the scheme, a minimum of Rs.10,000 and a maximum of Rs.2 crore can be deposited.
- 79.** The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has amended regulations pertaining to **voluntary liquidation** process in order to fast track the process.
- Major Amendments:**
- The timeline for completion has reduced from 12 months to **90 days**/270 days depending upon claims from creditors.
 - Introduced a compliance certificate (**a new Form H**) similar to the one provided under corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) regulations and liquidation regulations. It will contain a summary of the entire voluntary liquidation process.
 - A liquidator is needed to distribute the proceeds from realisation within **30 days** to the stakeholders as opposed to the earlier norm of six months.
- 80.** **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has partnered with **Common Services Centres (CSC)**, under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, to boost insurance penetration in rural areas by engaging its network of over 4 lakhs Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plan.
- 81.** **Bank of Maharashtra** has decided to sell its entire **4%** stake, equivalent to 40,00,000 equity shares, in **India SME Asset Reconstruction Company (ISARC)** for a cash consideration for Rs.3.92 crore. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of December 2022.
- 82.** Dubai-based Mashreq NEO, a full-service digital bank from Mashreq Bank, has collaborated with **Federal Bank** to facilitate Mashreq Neo's Indian customers to open a Non-Resident accounts with the Federal Bank in India, instantly via the Neo app.
- 83.** **ICICI Bank** has tied up with **KredX**, India's largest supply chain finance company, to provide 'ICICI Bank - KredX Commercial Card' for **B2B (business-to-business) payments**. It is a first-of-its-kind cashback card that enables businesses to avail financial rewards instantly for all B2B payments, without incurring any additional cost.
- 84.** IndusInd Bank's '**Indus Merchant Solutions**' app, a flagship mobile application for merchants, has been awarded the 'Outstanding Digital CX - SME Payments' in the **Digital CX Awards 2022**.

- Indus Merchant Solutions App was launched in November 2021 to enable merchants, retailers, and professionals to undertake various activities such as accept instant cashless payments on mobile phones, track inventory via in-built dashboards, etc.
- The Digital CX Awards, is organised by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider.

- 85.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted two separate expert groups to examine the roles, eligibility criteria, and functions of sponsors and trustees at asset management companies (AMCs).
- The working group on sponsors will be chaired by **Balasubramanian**, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC.
 - The working group on MF trustees will be chaired by **Manoj Vaish**, Independent Trustee, Mirae MF.
- 86.** The **Bandhan Financial Holding Limited (BFHL)**-led consortium has signed an agreement to acquire **IDFC Asset Management Company (AMC)** and **IDFC AMC Trustee Company** for **Rs.4500 crore**.
- The consortium led by BFHL also includes private equity firm ChrysCapital and Singapore's sovereign fund GIC.
 - BFHL will own 60% of the AMC, while ChrysCapital and GIC will each own 20%.
 - BFHL is the holding company of private sector lender Bandhan Bank.

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RBI IN NEWS

- 87.** The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has maintained status quo on key rates in its **first bi-monthly policy statement for FY23 (April 2022-March 2023)**. It has been decided to continue with the '**accommodative stance**' to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis. The meeting has been held from 6th April to 8th April 2022.

Policy rates as of April 2022	
Repo rate	4%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Reserves Ratio as of April 2022	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

Note- The next meeting of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to be held during **June 6 to 8, 2022**.

Other Decisions:

- RBI has projected India's GDP to expand by **7.2%** in **FY23** (7.8% estimated earlier). Q1 FY23: 16.2%, Q2 FY23: 6.2%, Q3 FY23: 4.1%, Q4 FY23: 4%
- CPI inflation for FY23 is forecasted at **5.7%** (4.5% estimated earlier).
- RBI has increased commercial bank's Held to Maturity (HTM) limit from the existing 22% to **23%** of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) till **23rd March 2023**.
- RBI has also proposed to extend the rationalized home loan norms by another year till 31st March 2023.

88. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** at an interest rate of **3.75 percent**. It is a financial stability tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.

- **Objective:** To reduce the excess liquidity of Rs 8.5 lakh crore in the system, and control inflation.
- The SDF will replace the fixed-rate reverse repo (FRRR) as the floor of the liquidity adjustment facility corridor.
- Both the standing facilities: the MSF (marginal standing facility) and the SDF will be available on all days of the week, throughout the year.

89. As per the latest RBI data, a total of 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions have reported 96 cases of fraud, involving a total amount of **Rs.34,097 crore** in the nine months of FY22 (April - December 2021).

- **Punjab National Bank** has recorded the highest value of frauds worth **Rs.4,820 crore** with 10 frauds.
- **Bank of India** has recorded the highest number of frauds at **13** with the value of Rs. 3,925.

90. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions on Bengaluru-based **Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita** for a period of **six months** due to decline in

the lender's financial position. RBI has also imposed a withdrawal cap of **Rs.5000** of the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor.

91. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated all **Non-Banking Financial Companies in the Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) and Middle Layer (NBFC-ML)** to have compliance function by **1st April 2023** and the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) by **1st October 2023**.

- The CCO will act as a nodal point of contact between the NBFC and the regulators / supervisors and must participate in the discussions held with RBI.
- The CCO will be appointed for a minimum fixed tenure of not less than 3 years. However, in exceptional cases, the Board may relax the minimum tenure by one year.

92. The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for banks to set up 24*7 **Digital Banking Units (DBUs)** in order to provide products and services in both self-served and assisted mode.

- As per the guidelines, scheduled commercial banks with past digital banking experience are permitted to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres without having the need to take permission from Reserve Bank of India in each case.
- The DBUs of the banks will be treated as Banking Outlets.

About DBU:

A DBU is a specialised fixed point business unit / hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products & services. The objective of a DBU is expansion of digital financial services and financial inclusion.

The Union Budget 2022-23 has announced to set up 75 DBUs in 75 districts to commemorate the 75 years of independence of our country.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

93. A photograph titled '**Kamloops Residential School**' by Canadian photographer **Amber Bracken** has won the **2022 World Press Photo of the Year Award**. The photo shows children's clothing hung on crosses commemorating the more than 200 children who died of maltreatment, neglect and disease at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.

Other winners:

- **World Press Photo Story of the Year Award:** Saving Forests with Fire by Matthew Abbott, Australia, for National Geographic/Panos Pictures
- **World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award:** Amazonian Dystopia by Lalo de Almeida, Brazil, for Folha de São Paulo/Panos Pictures
- **World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award:** Blood is a Seed by Isadora Romero, Ecuador

94. Veteran Bengali author **Amar Mitra** has been conferred the prestigious **O. Henry Prize for Short Fiction 2022**. He has been awarded for his short story titled 'Gaonburo'- a Bengali short fiction, which was translated into English (The Old Man of Kusumpur) by Anish Gupta. *O. Henry Prize was started in 1919 to honour the memory of the acclaimed writer, O. Henry. The prize is the oldest major award for short fiction in America.*

95. The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, has bestowed the **Sangeet Natak Awards** and the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship** for the year 2018 to **43** eminent artists (4 Fellows and 40 awardees).

Recipients of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship:

- Sonal Mansingh
- Jatin Goswami
- Zakir Hussain
- Thiruvaidaimarudur Kuppiah Kalyanasundaram

The Fellowships and National Awards of the **Lalit Kala Akademi** for the year 2021 have also been presented to 23 people (3 Fellows and 20 National Awards).

Recipients of the Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship:

- Jyoti Bhatt
- Himmat Shah
- Shyam Sharma

96. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be honoured with the inaugural **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** at the upcoming Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony. He will receive the award on 24th April to mark the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar, the father of Lata Mangeshkar.

The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar will be given annually to only one individual who has made path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to the nation, its people and society. It has been started in the honour and memory of Lata Mangeshkar.

Other awardees:

- Veteran actors **Asha Parekh** and **Jackie Shroff** will receive the Master Deenanath Puraskar (special honour) for their "dedicated services in the field of cinema".
- **Rahul Deshpande** will receive the Master Deenanath Puraskar for Indian music, while the best drama award will go to the play, "**Sanjay Chaya**".
- Master Deenanath Puraskar (Anandmayee Puraskar) will be given to **Nutan Mumbai** tiffin box suppliers charity trust for its "dedicated services in the field of social service".

97. Founder and CEO of Nykaa, **Falguni Nayar** has been named the **EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021**. She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on 9th June 2022 in Monaco.

Other Awardees:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** AM Naik, Group Chairman, Larsen & Toubro
- **Start-up:** Vidit Aatrey, co-founder & CEO and Sanjeev Barnwal, co-founder & CTO, Fashnear Technology (Meesho)
- **Business Transformation:** Abhay Soi, Chairman and Managing Director, Max Healthcare
- **Manufacturing:** Sunil Vachani, Founder and Executive Chairman, Dixon Technologies
- **Services:** Sahil Barua, Co-founder and CEO, Delhivery
- **Consumer Products & Retail:** Shiv Kishan Agarwal, Chairman; and Manohar Lal Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director respectively, Haldiram Group
- **Life Sciences & Healthcare:** Dr. Satyanarayana Chava, Founder and CEO, Laurus Labs
- **Financial Services:** Harshil Mathur, Co-founder and CEO; and Shashank Kumar, Co-founder and CTO, Razorpay
- **Technology, Media and Telecom:** Girish Mathrubootham, Co-founder and CEO, Freshworks
- **Entrepreneurial CEO:** Vivek Vikram Singh, Managing Director and Group CEO, Sona Comstar

98. **Hyderabad and Mumbai** have won the tag of '**2021 Tree City of the World**' by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. They have been recognized for their "commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities".

- Hyderabad has been recognised for a second consecutive year. It was first recognized in 2020.
- 136 other cities from 21 countries have been recognised in the third edition of the Tree City of the World list.

99. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy 2021 to **Dr Bhushan Kumar** of Chandigarh under the individual category and **Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat** under the institutional category at a function in New Delhi. Both the winners have been working diligently to raise awareness about leprosy and in providing care to those afflicted with it. The annual award was instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.

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BOOKS & AUTHORS

- 100.** **'Tomb of Sand'** has been shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. It has been authored by **Geetanjali Shree**. The book has become the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the prize. The novel has been translated into English by Daisy Rockwell. The literary prize comes with a cash award of 50,000 pounds, which is split equally between the author and translator.
- 101.** A new book titled **'Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI'** has been authored by **Vinod Rai**, former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and chief of Supreme court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) in 2017. In this book, he encapsulates his 33-month stint at the BCCI. The book is published by Rupa Publications India.
- 102.** A new book titled **'Hear Yourself: How to Find Peace in a Noisy World'** has been authored by **Prem Rawat**. The book is published by HarperOne.

PERSON IN NEWS

- 103.** Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Chief **Shehbaz Sharif** has been elected as the 23rd Prime Minister of **Pakistan**. He has succeeded Imran Khan, who has been removed by a no-trust vote recently in the National Assembly.
- 104.** Eminent scholar and academician **Dr Manoj Soni** has been appointed as the 31st Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He has succeeded Pradeep Kumar Joshi. His tenure will end on 27th June 2023.
- He authored a book titled *'Understanding the Global Political Earthquake'*.
- 105.** Australian cricketer **Rachael Haynes** has been named ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2022. Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam** has been named ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2022.

OBITUARIES

- 106.** Indian actor and screenwriter **Shiv Kumar Subramaniam** has passed away recently in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 23rd December 1959 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- He was best known for his roles in the serial *Mukti Bandhan* and *Meenakshi Sundareswarar*.
 - He started his career by writing a screenplay for the 1989 film *Parinda* which was directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.
 - He won the Film fare Award for Best Story for *Hazaron Khawaishein Aisis*.
 - He has worked in films like *2 States*, *Hichki*, *Nail Polish*, *Rocky Handsome* and more.

SPORTS

- 107.** The Fencing Association of India (FAI) has won the bid to host the **Asian Junior & Cadet fencing championships 2023**. India will host the Asian Junior (U-20) Men & Women and Cadet (U-17) Boys & Girls Fencing Championships 2023 in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat.
- 108.** The Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022 has been held in Phuket, Thailand. India has won a total of **10 medals** in the tournament, including **three Gold, four Silver**, and **three Bronze**.
- Medallists at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022:**
- **Gold:** Govind Sahani (48kg), Ananta Chopde (54kg) and Sumit (75kg);
 - **Silver:** Monika (48kg), Amit Panghal (52kg), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Ashish Kumar (81kg);
 - **Bronze:** Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg)
- 109.** Indian duo **Dipika Pallikal Karthik** and **Saurav Ghosal** have won the mixed double title at the **2022 WSF World Doubles Squash Championship** held in Glasgow, Scotland. They have won the title by defeating Adrian Waller and Alison Waters of England.
- Dipika** and **Joshna Chinappa** have won the women's doubles title by defeating Sarah Jane Perry and Waters of England in the tournament.
- 110.** The **Australian state of Victoria** has been officially announced as host of the **2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG)**. It will be held in four towns such as Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, and Gippsland. The opening ceremony will be held at the 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
- 111.** **Riya Jadon**, a 13-year old, has won the 11th edition of **DGC Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship** held at the Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi.

- 112.** Indian Badminton player **Mithun Manjunath** has won a silver medal in Men's singles at the Orleans Masters 2022 held in Orleans, France. Women's doubles pair K Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam have won the bronze medal in Women's doubles at the tournament.
- 113. R Pragganandhaa** has won the Kvika Reykjavik Open 2022 by defeating D Gukesh in the final round held in Reykjavik, Iceland. He scored 7½/9 and finished a half-point ahead.
- 114.** The first **Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament** has been held in Tata Archery Academy, **Jamshedpur**, Jharkhand. It has been organized by the Archery Association of India (AAI), in collaboration with the Jharkhand Archery Association and TATA Steel.
- The Sports Authority of India has approved a total amount of Rs.75 Lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases.
 - The first phase of the tournament has been held in Jamshedpur from 12th April to 13th April 2022.
 - The tournament has been conducted as per the World Archery Rules.
- 115.** Ferrari-driver **Charles Leclerc** (Monaco) has won the F1 Australian Grand Prix 2022 held in Melbourne, Victoria. Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Racing – Mexico) has come second while George Russell (Mercedes – Britain) has come third.
- 116.** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named **South Africa** as the host of the inaugural **U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023**. The tournament will take place in January 2023.
- It is noteworthy that South Africa hosted the inaugural edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2007, which India won after defeating Pakistan in the final.
- 117.** The **Netherlands** hockey team has won the **2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup** title after beating Germany in the final held at Potchefstroom, South Africa. With this, Netherlands has won their fourth title.
- **Note:** The 2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup will be held in Santiago, Chile.
- 118.** Rajasthan Royals all-rounder, **Ravichandran Ashwin** has become the first batsman to get officially retired out in Indian Premier League (IPL) history during the high-octane clash against Lucknow Super Giants.

IMPORTANT DAYS

119. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed annually on **9th April**, as a tribute to the brave men of the force. The year 2022 marks the **57th CRPF Valour Day**.

Historical Background:

It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several times larger, at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive. In the conflict, CRPF lost six personnel who had attained martyrdom.

120. World Homeopathy Day is observed annually on **10th April** to highlight the importance of homoeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of the founder of homoeopathy, **Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann**. The year 2022 marks his **267th** birth anniversary.

Theme 2022: 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness'

121. National Safe Motherhood Day is observed annually across India on **11th April** to raise awareness of proper health care and maternity facilities for pregnant and lactating women. The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Kasturba Gandhi**, an Indian political activist and wife of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Note: According to Registrar General of India, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has declined by ten points. The ratio has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19.

122. World Parkinson's Disease Day is observed annually on **11th April** to spread awareness of Parkinson's disease, which is a progressive nervous system disorder. The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Dr James Parkinson** from London, who was the first person to systematically describe the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease.

Theme 2022: 'Integrated Healthcare'

123. International Day of Human Space Flight is observed annually on **12th April** to mark the anniversary of the first human space flight by Russian cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin** on 12th April 1961. The year 2022 marks the 61st anniversary of the first human spaceflight. The day was first observed in 2011.

124. International Day of Street Children is observed annually on **12th April** to recognise the humanity, dignity and defiance of street children in the face of unimaginable hardships.

- The day was first observed in 2012.

- The 2022 theme is the 4th Step in Consortium for Street Children (CSC)'s 4 Steps to Equality Campaign: 1) Commit to Equality; 2) Protect Every Child; 3) Provide Access to Services; 4) Create Specialised Solutions.

125. International Turban Day is observed annually on **13th April** to spread awareness about the distinct appearance of Sikhs who love and respect principles of faith which obligate keeping hair uncut and covered with a turban. The turban, also known as “dastar” or “pagri” or “pag” refers to the garment worn by both men and some women to cover their heads.

- The year 2022 marks the **553rd birth anniversary** of Guru Nanak Dev and the festival of Baisakhi.
- The day was first observed in 2004.

126. Siachen Day is observed annually on **13th April** to commemorate the courage of the Indian Army under "Operation Meghdoot". The day also honours Siachen Warriors serving their motherland successfully from the enemy. The year 2022 marks **38th Siachen Day**.

Operation Meghdoot: It was launched on 13 April 1984. The military action resulted in Indian troops gaining control of the entire Siachen Glacier.

127. The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has recently observed its **128th Foundation Day** on 12th April 2022. During the occasion, PNB has launched a cardless cash withdrawal service and a virtual debit card for its users. It has also launched a mobile app named **PNB One** for safe banking transactions.

128. Ambedkar Jayanti is observed annually on **14th April** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar**. The year 2022 marks the **131st** birth anniversary of him. The day was first observed in 2015.

About B.R. Ambedkar:

- He is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution. He was the first Law and Justice Minister of India after the independence. He was born on 14 April 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh in Hindu Mahar Caste. He attended all the three Round Table Conferences (1930-32) in London. He founded the 'Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha in 1923 and the Independent Labour Party in 1936. He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in **1990**.
- **Major books/articles written by him:** Mook Nayak (weekly) 1920; Janta (weekly) 1930; The Annihilation of Caste 1936; 'The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution' 1923; The Untouchables 1948; Buddha or Karl Marx 1956; Buddha and His Dharma 1956, etc.

129. World Chagas Disease Day is observed annually on **14th April** to spread public awareness and visibility among people about Chagas Disease (also called American trypanosomiasis).

- **Theme 2022:** 'Finding and reporting every case to defeat chagas disease'
- The day was first observed in 2020.

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