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April 2022 - Week 4

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 1. Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** to collaborate in the areas of knowledge sharing and strengthening monitoring mechanics for the localization of sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- The **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy's Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology (**NIETT**) to exchange best practices in the field of Instructional Leadership, Educational Psychology and Management.
- India** will host the **World Dairy Summit (WDS) 2022** in Delhi from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022. It will be organised by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) under the theme 'Dairy for nutrition and livelihood'. This summit is going to be held after a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.  
**Note:** India had last hosted the International Dairy Congress in the year 1974.

4. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime** during DefConnect 2.0 held in New Delhi. The objective is to support start-ups for projects beyond Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore and help ever-growing start-ups in the defence sector.
- He has also launched **6<sup>th</sup> Defence India Start-up Challenge** (DISC 6) with 38 Problem Statements. For the first time, newly-formed seven defence companies, Indian Coast Guard and organisations under Ministry of Home Affairs have participated in DISC 6 along with the three Services ( Army, navy & Air Force) and some Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
5. The Indian Coast Guard Ship named **Urja Pravaha**, an auxiliary barge, has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Shoft Shipyard in **Bharuch**, Gujarat. It will be based in Kochi under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala and Mahe).
- Urja Prabha is 36.96 meter long with draft of 1.85 meters.
  - It is designed to cargo ship fuel, aviation fuel and fresh water with a capacity of 50 tons, 10 tons and 40 tons respectively.
6. Crypto exchange **Bitbns** has listed the metaverse token '**TRACE**' on its platform. It has become India's first crypto exchange to list this token. The TRACE is a popular metaverse token used for accessorizing digital avatars.
- Metaverse tokens are the currency used by people within the metaverse. Users can create, buy, and sell goods as well as tokenized funds.
7. **World Bank** has recently approved **USD 47 million** to support the Government of India's Mission Karmayogi, a national program to build civil service capacity. The objective is to enhance the functional and behavioural competencies of approximately 4 million civil servants. It will focus on three components:
- Development and implementation of competency frameworks;
  - Development of an integrated learning platform;
  - Program monitoring, evaluation, and management.

**About Mission Karmayogi:** Mission Karmayogi was launched on **20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. It aims to reform Indian bureaucracy and prepare civil servants for the future. It is being delivered through a digital platform called iGOT (Integrated Government Online training) - Karmayogi. The **Public Human Resource Council** under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India is the apex body of the Mission Karmayogi.

It has the following six pillars:

1. Policy Framework,
2. Institutional Framework,
3. Competency Framework,

4. Digital Learning Framework,
5. Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS), and
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The mission will cover around 4.6 million central employees.

A sum of **Rs 510.86 crore** has been allocated to be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

8. The Government of India (GoI) has set a timeline to commercially roll out the **first indigenous chipsets** by **2023-24** under the **Digital India RISC -V (DIR-V) programme**, launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The focus is on making available the first set of commercial silicon of Shakti and Vega processors by December 2023 or early 2024.

- IIT Madras and the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named **Shakti (32 bit)** and **Vega (64 bit)** respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of the Microprocessor Development Programme of the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- DIR-V aims to create future generations of microprocessors that will serve the need of India's strategic focus on mobility, computing and digitisation. It is a part of the government's Rs 76,000 crore effort to build a semiconductor ecosystem in the country.
- The government has appointed IIT Madras director Professor V Kamakoti as chief architect and CDAC Trivandrum Scientist Krishna Kumar Rao as programme manager of the DIR-V programme.

9. **India** has registered its name in the Guinness Book of World records by waving the maximum number of the National Flag i.e. **78,200 flags** simultaneously on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 at the 'Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav' programme at **Jagdishpur** in **Bhojpur district of Bihar**. The flags were waved for a full five minutes on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great freedom fighter Babu Veer Kunwar Singh.

- Veer Kunwar Singh fought his last battle near Jagdishpur on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1858, and defeated the East India Company in this battle. He died in service for the nation after taking down the Union Jack flag from Jagdishpur Fort.
- **Note:** Earlier (18 years ago), a world record was set by Pakistan wherein 56,000 Pakistanis waved their national flag at an event in Lahore.

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- 10.** The **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 (UBA 2.0)** has successfully completed **four years** on 25th April 2022. It was launched in **2018** with the aim of bringing transformational changes in the processes of rural development processes. This is the **Challenge Mode** of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme where all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are required to willingly adopt at least 5 villages. It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Education**.
- IIT Delhi has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA scheme.
  - It covers two major domains for holistic development of villages: human development and material (economic) development in an integrated way.

**Note:** UBA 1.0 was launched in 2014. It was the Invitation Mode in which Participating Institutions were invited to be a part of UBA.

- 11.** The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has organized Asia's largest international food and hospitality fair '**AAHAR-2022**' at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi** from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. It has been organized in association with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) under the theme "Geographical Indication Products". It is the 36th edition of AAHAR.

More than 80 exporters from different segments of agricultural products which include geographical indication products, processed food, organic, and frozen food products have participated in the fair.

- 12.** The Union Cabinet has approved additional funding of **Rs.820 crore** for **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to be utilised for expansion of its services to all post offices in the country. Cabinet has also given its in-principle approval for future fund infusion worth Rs.500 crore into IPPB for meeting regulatory requirements and technological up gradation.
- 13.** The Cabinet has approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of IPPB from Rs.1,435 crore to Rs.2,255 crore as equity infusion to meet regulatory requirement.

IPPB was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, with 650 branches or controlling offices. It is headquartered in **New Delhi** and the present MD and CEO is J Venkatramu.

- 14.** **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched the **Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE)** Scheme. It has been launched by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar and Anandi Ben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

- **Objective:** To provide high-quality free coaching facilities to the Scheduled Caste students for the UPSC Civil Services examinations.
- Under the DACE Scheme, a total of 100 seats will be sanctioned for each coaching centre. Out of the total sanctioned of 100 seats per coaching centre, 33% of seats will preferably be given to the eligible female candidates of Scheduled Castes.
- The students will be selected through an entrance test conducted by the University as per merit.
- Rs.75,000 per annum/per student will be provided to the University for 100 students.
- The total amount of Rs.75 lakh per year will be provided to the University for running the Scheme.

**15.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Raisina Dialogue 2022** in New Delhi. The dialogue has been held for 3 days from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The chief guest of the event is European Commission President **Ursula Von Der Leyen**.

- **Theme 2022:** "Terranova- Impassioned, Impatient, Imperilled"
- The dialogue has been modelled along **six** thematic pillars: Rethinking Democracy: trade, technology and ideology; End of Multilateralism: a networked global order; Water Caucuses: turbulent tides in the Indo-Pacific; Communities Inc: first responders to health, development, and planet; Achieving Green Transitions: common imperative, diverging realities; Samson vs Goliath: the persistent and relentless technology wars.
- The dialogue has witnessed around 100 sessions with over 210 speakers from 90 countries.

During the event, India and the European Union (EU) has agreed to establish a **Trade and Technology Council** to address the challenges of ensuring trusted technology and security in the wake of rapid geopolitical changes. It will ensure coordination in different areas of cooperation between India and EU. This council will be the first for India with any of its partners and second for the EU, following the first one with the US.

**16.** **Prasar Bharati** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Public Broadcaster of **Argentina** Radio Television Argentina (RTA) for cooperation in the field of broadcasting. This MoU will allow enhanced cooperation between the two media systems with the exchange of programs, formats, and cultural initiatives and the sharing of knowledge and experiences in the fields of culture, education, science, entertainment, sports, and news.

**17.** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme till **December 2024**. This approval has increased the loan amount to

**Rs.8,100 crore** from Rs.5000 crore, thereby providing the street vendors working capital to further expand their business and making them Atma Nirbhar.

**About PM SVANidhi:** It is a Centre sector scheme. It was launched in **June 2020**. It provides street vendors a collateral-free loan of Rs.10,000 with low interest rate for a period of one year. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- 18.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated India's first dairy community radio named '**Dudh Vani**' in Gujarat. This radio station is dedicated to cattle breeders. It has been set up by Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union (Banas Dairy). It will connect over 5 lakh dairy farmers across 1700 villages in the state.
- 19.** The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has organized a mega event named '**Yog Prabha**' at Safdarjung Airport in New Delhi. The event has been inaugurated by Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and the Minister of State for Civil Aviation Dr. V.K. Singh. The aim is to spread awareness among the participants about the importance of Yoga and motivate others to do Yoga on a daily basis. Around 900 officials has participated in this mega event. **Note:** The United Nations General Assembly declared 21st June as the International Day of Yoga in 2014.
- 20.** The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has launched the **Trilateral Development Corporation (TDC) fund** to provide an alternative to the Chinese development partnership model that has pushed parts of the developing world to a debt trap. India's Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) launched with the UK will provide a template to use the TDC fund for trilateral projects with other countries like Japan, Germany, France, and the European Union (EU).
- 21.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new initiative named '**Amrit Sarovar Mission**' during his visit to Palli Panchayat in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (24<sup>th</sup> April). The initiative aims to develop and rejuvenate **75 water bodies** in each district of the country by **15 August 2023**. These water bodies should be lined with trees named after the martyrs and freedom fighters.  
*India's first Amrit Sarovar has been established in **Patwai, Shahabad** of Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh.*

He has also inaugurated and laid foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth over **Rs. 20,000 crore** to speed development in Jammu and Kashmir.

- He has laid the foundation stone of the **Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway** and has inaugurated the **500KW solar power plant** at Palli village along with 108 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, in Samba.

- **Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel:** He has also inaugurated the Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel to establish all-weather connectivity between the Jammu and Kashmir regions of the union territory. The 8.45 km long twin tube tunnel will reduce the road distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 16 Km and reduce the journey time by around one-and-a half-hours. It will be built at a cost of over Rs.3100 crore.
- He has also laid the foundation stones for the **850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project & 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Project** to be constructed on the Chenab River in Kishtwar District.
- He has also transferred award money of Rs.44.70 crore to Panchayats which are winners of National Panchayat Awards given across different categories on National Panchayati Raj Day for their achievements.

22. The Union **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government of **Himachal Pradesh** to develop a Greenfield Airport in Nagchala, located in the district of Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. It will be built at a cost of Rs.900 crore.

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23. BJP national vice-president **A P Abdullakutty** has been elected as the chairperson of Haj Committee of India. For the first time, two women have been elected as its vice-chairpersons: **Munnawari Begum** and **Mafuja Khatun**.
- Munnawari Begum is a member of the Central Waqf Council and Mafuja Khatun is the vice president of the Bengal unit of the BJP.
  - Haj Committee of India is a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. It is set up under the provisions of the Haj Committee Act, 2002. It has the responsibility of making arrangements for the pilgrimage of Muslims for Haj, and for matters connected therewith. The present CEO of Haj Committee of India is Mohd Yakoob Shekha.
24. The **Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has launched '**Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya**', a short video series created in collaboration with **Netflix** to bring out beautiful stories of inspirational Indians on various themes including Women Empowerment, Environment & Sustainability, and others. Both have collaborated to produce the first set of videos featuring seven Women Changemakers from across India who share their experiences in breaking the glass ceiling.
- Seven women change-makers:**



- **Basanti Devi**, Padma-award winning environmentalist from Pithoragarh known for her contribution towards revitalizing the Kosi River.
- **Anshu Jamsenpa**, a Padma Shri awardee for being the first woman in the world to summit Mount Everest twice in five days in 2017.
- **Harshini Kanhekar**, the first female firefighter in India, were also present at the launch.
- **Poonam Nautiyal**, a healthcare worker who walked miles across the Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand to vaccinate everyone.
- **Tessy Thomas**, the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India.
- **Tanvi Jagadish**, India's first competitive woman stand-up paddleboarder.
- **Aarohi Pandit**, the world's youngest and first woman pilot to cross the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean solo in a light-sport aircraft.

25. The Union Cabinet has approved the opening of a new **Indian Mission** in **Lithuania** in 2022. This will contribute to the expansion of India's diplomatic footprint, the strengthening of political relations and strategic cooperation, and the development of bilateral trade, investment, and economic partnerships. Currently, the Indian mission in Poland is accredited to Lithuania.

26. Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh has launched the '**Azadi se Antyodaya Tak**', a **90-day** inter-ministerial campaign, with a mission to saturate 75 Districts across 28 States/UTs with beneficiary schemes of 09 central ministries.

- The goal is to take up 17 select schemes with direct assistance to beneficiaries in saturation mode, reaching out to the person at the bottom of the pyramid in rural areas by each of the participating ministries/departments.
- The identified districts under this campaign are aligned with them being the birthplace of 100 Freedom Fighters, who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country during its struggle for independence from the British.
- This campaign is a joint effort of the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment-Divyangjan, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Health & Family Welfare, and Ministry of Labour & Employment.

27. The **Atal Tunnel** in Rohtang (Himachal Pradesh) has won the Indian Building Congress (IBC) Awards for Excellence in Built Environment 2021 under the Best Infrastructure Project category.

**About Atal Tunnel:**

It is the longest highway tunnel in the world. It was built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) utilising the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM). It is **9.02 km** long and it connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley.

- 28.** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced that **Mumbai** will host the 1st Incredible **India International Cruise Conference-2022** from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022. It will be organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mumbai Port Authority, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The conference aims to deliberate on 'Developing India as a Cruise Hub'.
- 29.** The **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a pact with Bharti group-backed **OneWeb** to complete OneWeb satellite launch programme. The first launch with NSIL is expected in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- 30. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, for the first time, will host the **21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA)**, the kumbh of accountants, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. The theme for 2022 will be 'Building Trust Enabling Sustainability'. Around 6000 top accountants from 130 countries will participate in the programme physically.
- The WCOA, a forum for thought leadership and global exchange of views, is held every four years since it started in 1904.
- 31.** In April 2022, the Union Cabinet under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved **Rs.2,426 crore** for up gradation of **2,542** mobile towers from **2G to 4G**. All these towers are in naxal affected area. All these sites will be upgraded and run by BSNL. The 2,542 mobile towers are spread across 10 states. This includes 346 sites in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar 16, Chhattisgarh 971, Jharkhand 450, Madhya Pradesh 23, Maharashtra 125, Odisha 483, West Bengal 33, Uttar Pradesh 42 and Telangana 53.
- 32. IndiGo** has become India's first airline to land aircraft using the GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN) system. The flight was conducted using an ATR-72 aircraft and landed at the Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan.
- About GAGAN:**
- It has been jointly developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It is used to provide lateral and vertical guidance when an aircraft is approaching a runway for landing.

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a mandate for all aircraft registered in India after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to be fitted with GAGAN equipment.

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- 33. NITI Aayog** has signed a Statement of Intent with the **UNICEF India** on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on children. This will seek to formalize a framework of cooperation to launch the first report on the State of India's Children - Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development.
- 34.** The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy have collaborated with the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) to use the **CHAFF technology** in the Indian Air force Aircrafts and Indian Naval Ships in order to protect the warship from an anti-ship missile during hostilities.
- With this, India has become the second country after USA to induct such technology.
  - DRDO has developed all three variants of CHAFF rockets namely, Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR), and have been inducted in the Indian Navy. DRDO
  - DRDO has also developed advanced CHAFF cartridge-118/I for the Indian Air Force.
- 35.** The Government of India (GoI) has recently amended the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** to further promote 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and enable Ease of Doing Business. These amendments are based on the approvals accorded by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

### Key amendments:

- Domestic Industry will not have to furnish Integrity Pact Bank Guarantee (IPBG) for acquisitions costing more than Rs.100 crore. Instead of IPBG, **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** will be used as a bid security for all acquisition cases with Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) cost more than **Rs 100 crore**. EMD is not required from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- The total order quantities in acquisition situations will be distributed between shortlisted vendors to encourage wider participation and broad base indigenous defence manufacturing sector.
- The procurement process under iDEX procedure of DAP 2020 has been simplified. With this simplification, time taken from grant of AoN to signing of contract will be reduced to **22 weeks**.

- The timelines in Make-II procedure will be reduced to **101-109 weeks** from an existing total time-period of 122-180 weeks.
- 36.** As per the latest government data, the total enrolments under **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** have crossed **4.01 crore** as on March 2022 out of which more than 99 lakh APY accounts were opened during FY 2021-22. Out of the total APY subscribers 44 % are female subscribers while 56% are male subscribers.
- Atal Pension Yojana is the guaranteed pension scheme of Government of India launched in 2015.
  - It is being administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
  - The scheme allows any Citizen of India between the age group of 18-40 years to join through the bank or post office branches where one has the savings bank account.
  - Under the scheme, a subscriber will receive a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs.1000 to Rs. 5000 per month from the age of 60 years, depending upon his contribution.
- 37.** The **Ministry of Railways** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)** to establish a robust collaborative working partnership for coordination and resource sharing concerning the provision of Telecommunication facilities in the delivery and implementation of C-DOT's Telecom Solutions and services in Indian Railways.

## STATES AFFAIRS

- 38.** The state government of **Karnataka** has decided to rename **Shivamogga airport** after former chief minister and senior BJP leader **BS Yediyurappa**. The proposal will now be forwarded to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for further clearance.
- The Shivamogga airport will be completed by December 2022.
  - It consists of the second longest runway in the state measuring 3,299 meters, the first being the Kempegowda International Airport Bangalore, Karnataka with 4,000 meters.
- 39.** The state government of **Kerala** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Netherlands** for a project named '**Cosmos Malabaricus**'. The project relates to the 18th-century Dutch documents on Malabar, which are considered the most comprehensive source of information about the period between 1643 and 1852 in Kerala.
- **Objective:** To make the digitized Dutch archival material accessible to a wide range of audiences, including international and Indian scholars and people from Kerala.
  - It will be implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) under the Department of Higher Education, the National Archives of the Netherlands and the University of Leiden.

- It will be completed in six years.
40. The state cabinet of **Maharashtra** has approved **India's First Gene Bank Programme for Biodiversity Conservation**. The objective is to document native natural resources and conserve them with local communities to ensure biodiversity conservation and the inclusion of traditional knowledge. The state govt. has sanctioned Rs.172.39 crore for implementing the action plan for the next five years.
41. The state government of Gujarat's flagship technology incubator - **iCreate** (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**), the premier research and development body of the Government of India, to establish a collaborative support system for promising tech start-ups by making combined resources available for entrepreneurs and innovators in the country. The partnership will also catalyse scientific innovation and the marketability of high-tech start-ups.
42. Indian Navy has successfully test-fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the guided-missile destroyer **INS Delhi**. The test has been conducted using an upgraded modular launcher onboard the INS Delhi.
- Indian Air Force has also successfully test-fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft on the eastern seaboard.
43. **Google** has collaborated with the state government of **Telangana** to provide technical and financial support to youth and women entrepreneurs in the state. The objective is to extend scholarships for Google Career Certificates to state's youth, support women entrepreneurs through digital, business and financial skills training, and strengthen the Government's school modernisation efforts with digital teaching and learning tools and solutions.
44. Bharti Airtel has acquired a **7% stake** in Navi Mumbai based Cnergee Technologies, a cloud-based networking solutions provider, under the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program.
45. Meghalaya's Planning Department key initiative of e-Proposal System, part of **Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA)** has won the UN Award – **World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prize 2022**. The program has been selected by UN as Champion Project in the category of "The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development," along with projects from Australia, China, Argentina and Tanzania. It has been selected among the top 360 projects across the world.

**About MeghEA:** It is a flagship initiative of the government of **Meghalaya**. It was launched in **2019**. It aims to enable digital service delivery from Government to citizens, businesses and employees by adopting Whole-of-Government approach. It is supported by **National e-Gov Division** (NeGD), a first-of-its-kind in the country. **KPMG** is the consulting partner for MeghEA, while Humanitics, NIC and others are implementing agencies.

46. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated **Cancer Care Centres** at the Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) campus at **Dibrugarh** in **Assam**. It has been developed by the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), a joint venture of the state government and Tata Trusts. The centre at Dibrugarh is part of 17 medical facilities being developed by ACCF.
- He has also virtually inaugurated six other cancer centres at Barpeta, Tezpur, Jorhat, Darrang, Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur.
  - He has also laid the foundation stone of 7 other cancer centres to be set up at Goalpara, Dhubri, Nagaon, Golaghat, Sivasagar, Tinsukia and Nalbari.

The 17 hospitals are a joint initiative of the Assam government and Tata Trusts. They will be built at a cost of around Rs.4,000 crore. It will be South Asia's single largest affordable cancer care network.

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47. **Palli** in Simba district of **Jammu & Kashmir** has become India's first '**carbon neutral panchayat**' with the inauguration of 500 Kw solar power plant. 1,500 solar panels put up in a total area of 6,408 square metres will provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat under the central government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme.
- *Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.*
48. The **Samba district** of Jammu & Kashmir has become the first district in India to cover **100% households** under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) – SEHAT (Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine) scheme. The district has achieved this milestone after the conclusion of special registration drive organized by State Health Agency (SHA) from April 11 to April 21 in all Block Development Offices (BDO) across the district. The district has a total of 62,641 families with 3,04,510 people eligible for ABPM-JAY SEHAT golden cards.

**ABPMJAY-SEHAT scheme:**

The SEHAT scheme was launched in convergence with AB-PMJAY for the entire UT of Jammu and Kashmir on **26<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. The aim is to provide free of cost insurance cover and also provides financial cover up to **Rs. 5 lakh** per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.

49. The state government of **Maharashtra** has become the first state in India to develop a website-based **Migration Tracking System (MTS)** app for the portability of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. It aims to track the movement of the vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identification numbers that will be assigned to them.

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

50. **Agra** in Uttar Pradesh has become the first city in India to have **vacuum-based sewer systems**. These vacuums will be used in public places. Agra Smart City has connected 240 such houses near the Taj Mahal with vacuum-based sewer where conventional sewer systems cannot be used.
- The maintenance and complete care of the sewers for up to five years will be done by the Netherlands Company.
  - The estimated cost of the project is Rs.100 crore.
  - Sixty thousand houses have been connected with a 53 km long sewer line.

The vacuum-sewer is expected to be deployed in Kochi Municipal Corporation in Kerala after a successful trial in Agra.

51. **Mumbai** has become the first city in India to get **100% digital buses** with a 'Tap in and Tap out' facility. The aim is to increase the digitisation of bus ticketing system. Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is India's first bus service to go completely digital. The facility has been initially implemented on the Gateway of India to Churchgate route and will later be extended to all 438 routes across the city.

52. The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has decided to observe **Minorities Rights Day** annually on **18<sup>th</sup> December** and around Rs.2.50 lakh has been allocated for this purpose. The state government will also provide a monthly stipend of Rs.1,000 to girls from minority

communities studying in Class VI, and Rs.500 to girls studying in Classes III-V, at a total cost of Rs.2.75 crore.

- 53. Jamtara in Jharkhand** has become India's first district where all gram panchayats have community libraries. The district has a population of about eight lakh and has a total of 118 gram panchayats under six blocks and each panchayat has a well-equipped library that is open for students. These libraries were set up around two years ago with the assistance of Deputy Commissioner Faiz Aq Ahmed Mumtaz.
- Jamtara has been the workplace of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the great social reformer and educationist of the 19th century. He spent the last two decades of his life in Karmatand, Jamtara, awakening the light of education.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 54. José Ramos-Horta** has been elected as the new President of **Timor-Leste** for the second term. He secured 397,145 votes, or 62.09 percent, against incumbent Francisco "Lu-Olo" Guterres in the recently concluded elections.
- He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 along with Timorese Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo "for their work toward a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor."
- 55. India** has been designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the **Paris Book Festival 2022**. It was declared in the joint statement released in 2018 during the French President's visit to New Delhi. The festival has been held from April 21 to April 24, 2022.
- During the festival, the India Pavilion, developed by National Institute of Design (NID), has been inaugurated. It comprises over 15 digital and physical exhibitions showing over 400 books published in various Indian languages, representing the work of 65 Indian publishers.
- 56. The Finland** Minister of Economic Affairs **Mika Lintila** has visited India on 16–21 April 2022 to promote cooperation in quantum technology, telecommunications technology, artificial intelligence and renewable energy. He has been accompanied by Under-Secretary of State Petri Peltonen.
- **Objective:** To promote the exports of Finnish companies and to strengthen the image of Finland as an attractive destination for Indian companies, experts and tourists.



- During his visit, both the nations have decided to establish an Indo-Finnish **Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing** to stimulate innovative research and development projects.

- 57. SpaceX** has launched **53 Starlink satellites** to low-Earth orbit with its Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. This is the 15th Falcon 9 mission in 2022 and 149th overall since 2010.
- 58.** Former Honorary Consul of Peru in Mumbai, **Ardeshir B.K. Dubash**, has been awarded the **Order of Merit in the Diplomatic Service of Peru José Gregorio Paz Soldón**, the highest diplomatic award by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru. The award is normally reserved for career diplomats who have excelled in their work to promote the democratic, historical and institutional values of the Ministry, and who have made outstanding contributions to Peruvian foreign policy.
- 59.** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Chile** for cooperation in the **Disability Sector**. This MoU will encourage cooperation between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India and Government of Chile through joint initiatives in the disabilities sector.
- The year 2019-20 marked the 70th year of diplomatic relations between India and Chile.
- 60.** The **12th Ministerial Conference (MC)** of the World Trade Organization will be held in **Geneva, Switzerland** from 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June 2022. It was originally scheduled to take place from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 but was postponed in view of the outbreak of the Omicron variant. The conference will be attended by trade ministers and other senior officials from the member nations.
- The Ministerial Conference (MC) is the highest decision-making body of WTO.
  - It happens every two years bringing all members of the WTO together, all of which are countries or customs unions.
  - The Chair of the 12th MC is **Timur Suleimenov** of Kazakhstan.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> MC was held at Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017.
- 61.** The Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has organized the world's largest and most complex international real-time cyber defence exercise named **Locked Shields 2022** in Tallin, Estonia from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

- This year, for the first time, the exercise included the simulation of reserve management and financial messaging systems of a central bank in the cyber range environment for the technical exercise.
- More than 2000 participants from 33 nations have participated in this year's exercise.
- The team from Finland has won the exercise Locked Shields 2022. The joint team Lithuania-Poland has finished second and Estonian-Georgian has finished third.

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## REPORTS & INDICES

- 62. World Bank** has recently published **Commodity Markets Outlook 2022**. Key findings of the report are:
- Non-energy prices are expected to rise by about 20 percent in 2022.
  - Increase in energy prices over the past two years has been the largest since the 1973 oil crisis.
  - Price increases for food commodities and fertilizers which rely on natural gas as a production input, have been the largest since 2008.
  - Global food and fuel price shocks linked to the war are set to last until at least the end of 2024 and raise the risk of stagflation.
- 63.** According to World Steel Association data, **India** is the only country among the top 10 steel manufacturing nations in the world to have increased steel output from January to March 2022 compared to the same period last year. India has produced **31.9 million tonnes of steel**, an increase of 5.9%. With 10.9 million tonnes of steel produced in March 2022, India's growth rate is 4.4%. Brazil is the only other country in the top ten that has had an increase in steel production in the month of March.
- 64.** As per the latest report by payment solutions provider **ACI Worldwide**, data analytics firm GlobalData, and the **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)**, India has made **48.6 billion** real-time payments through 2021, which is over 2.6 times higher than China, which is at the second place with 18.5 billion real-time transactions.
- As per the report, real-time payments in India are expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of **33.5%** through 2026.

- The real-time payments has added **USD 16.4 billion** to India's economic output, or 0.56% of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), in 2021. By 2026, this contribution will rise to USD 45.9 billion or 1.12% of the nation's GDP.

**65.** The "**Special 301 Report**" 2022 has been released by the **United States Trade Representative (USTR)**. It an annual review of the global state of IP protection and enforcement. As per the report:

- **India**, China, Russia and four other countries (Argentina, Chile, Indonesia and Venezuela) are again placed on USTR's annual 'Priority Watch List' for intellectual property protection and enforcement.
- The report has placed at least 21 countries under the list. It also includes Algeria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, and Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

**66.** According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, India is ranked at **third** position in terms of military expenditure. India's military expenditure has increased to **USD 76.6 billion** in 2021, an increase of 0.9 percent when compared with 2020.

- As per the report, the USA is the largest military spender in the world with USD 801 billion in 2021.
- It is followed by China with USD 293 billion in 2021.
- The global defence expenditure has reached an all-time high of **USD 2.1 trillion** in 2021. It has been increased by 0.7 percent in real terms in 2021.
- The five largest military spenders in 2021 are the USA, China, India, the UK and Russia, which together accounted for 62 percent of world military spending.

**67.** The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has published a report titled '**World Review of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Insurance 2022**'. The report presents the findings of five regional (Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Oceania) and four national reports of China, India, Russia, and the United States conducted in 2020.

**Key findings:**

- There is low penetration of insurance products in the Indian fisheries and aquaculture sector. The reason behind this is the high cost of the policies currently available.
- The report has recommended that public and private insurance service providers' work together to take proactive measures to help India's fisheries and aquaculture insurance market recover.

- The national report of India has been authored by **Shinoj Parappurath**, senior scientist, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, Kerala.

68. As per the Forbes real-time billionaires list, Adani Group Chairman **Gautam Adani** has surpassed Berkshire Hathaway chairman **Warren Buffett** to become the world's fifth-richest person. As of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022, Gautam Adani has a net worth of USD 123.7 billion.
69. As per the data released by the Chainalysis, investors around the world realized total gains of USD 162.7 billion in 2021, compared to just USD 32.5 billion in 2020.
- USA has topped with an estimated USD 47 billion in realized cryptocurrency gains, followed by the UK, Germany, Japan, and China.
  - India has been ranked **21st** in estimated Crypto Gains in 2021 with **USD 1.85 billion**.
  - The report highlights that Ethereum edged out Bitcoin in total realized gains globally at USD 76.3 billion to USD 74.7 billion.

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

70. **Apple** has recently tied up with **Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF)** and the **Conservation International** to protect a 2,400 hectare mangrove forest and local livelihoods that depend on it in **Raigad, Maharashtra**. This collaboration is a part of Apple's ongoing work to support communities most affected by climate change.
71. **IIT Delhi** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre (NRLDC) of **Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)** to encourage research on issues related to India's power sector and strengthen academic-industry interaction with the aim of knowledge sharing and capacity building through collaboration.
72. **NSE IFSC Ltd**, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange (NSE), has announced the launch of an **International Sustainability Platform** at GIFT City in Gujarat. This is a first of its kind ESG (environmental, social and governance) platform in India. It is expected to get operationalized in the second half of 2022.
73. **NTPC Limited**, India's largest power utility, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Energy Vault Holdings, Inc.**, to collaborate and formalise a long-term strategic partnership for the deployment of Energy Vault's EVx™ gravity-based energy storage technology and software solutions based on the outcome of a joint feasibility study.

74. Chennai-based **Veranda Learning Solutions** has signed an agreement to acquire **T.I.M.E.** (Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.), a leading test pre-institute in Hyderabad, for a cash consideration of **Rs.287 crore**.
75. The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)** to implement the Agri Export Policy and strengthen the export value chain. The objective is to infuse and disseminate innovations in the fields of climate-resilient agriculture and zero-carbon farming to produce residue/carbon-free food for export in collaboration with APEDA.
76. **Vishakha Mulye** has been appointed as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Aditya Birla Capital. She will succeed Ajay Srinivasan. She will join the Company on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, as Chief Executive Officer (Designate), with a one-month cross-over with Ajay Srinivasan to ensure a smooth transition of administration. She will take over as CEO of Aditya Birla Capital Limited when the transition period is complete. She is currently serving as the Executive Director of ICICI Bank.
77. **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for co-development and co-production of Long Range Dual Band Infra-Red Search and Track System (IRST) for **Sukhoi** (Su-30 MKI) fighter jets. The contract has been signed under the MAKE-II procedure of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, as part of the 'Make in India' initiative.
78. The **National Highways Logistic Management Limited (NHLML)** has signed an agreement with the **Ropeways and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation (RTDC)** for the development of seven ropeway projects for a total length of 57.1 kilometre in Kangra, Kullu, Chamba, Sirmour and Bilaspur districts at an estimated cost of Rs.2,264 crore in **Himachal Pradesh**. It will be developed under the Parvatmala Yojana.
79. The **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Equinor ASA**, the Norwegian state-owned multinational energy company, to collaborate in the field of upstream oil and gas, midstream, marketing and trading, besides exploring further options in low carbon fuel, renewables, carbon capture storage (CCS) as well as carbon capture utilization and sequestration (CCUS) opportunities in India. This MoU is valid for **two years**.

- 80. Flipkart** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government of **West Bengal** to train and support local artisans, handicraft makers, and weavers. This partnership will enhance development of artisans, weavers, small businesses and MSMEs by providing access to opportunities that e-commerce enables.
- 81.** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has tied up with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay** to co-research and develop green hydrogen technology.
- 82. Reliance Industries Limited** has become the first Indian company to hit the **Rs.19 lakh crore** market valuation mark in intra-day trade. The market heavyweight stock has raised 1.85 percent to its record high of Rs.2,827.10 during the day on the BSE. It finally settled flat at Rs 2,777.90, up 0.08 percent.
- 83.** The platform will facilitate listing and trading a variety of sustainability products including green bonds, voluntary carbon, sustainable bonds, green real estate investment trusts (REITs), green equity, among others and channelize the flow of sustainable finance to India and other markets.  
*The GIFT city in Gujarat, which is a special economic zone, is India's first IFSC (International Financial Services Centre).*
- 84. JCB India** has commissioned its new manufacturing unit at **Halol** near Vadodara, Gujarat. It has been inaugurated by the Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and **British PM Boris Johnson** in the presence of the Chairman of JC Bamford Excavators, Lord Bamford. It is JCB's 6<sup>th</sup> factory in India. It has been set up at an investment of £100 million (over Rs 990 crore). It has been built on a 47-acre site. It will be capable of processing 85,000 tonnes of steel annually.

In April 2022, British Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** has visited India (Delhi & Gujarat) on the invitation of PM Narendra Modi. The following MoUs have been signed between both the nations:

- The MoU on Cooperation on **Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership** has been signed between India's Department of Atomic Energy and the UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- MoU on Implementation of **Global Innovation Partnership** has been signed between India's Ministry of External Affairs and UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- MoU on the creation of the Chevening /Adani Scholarships on Artificial Intelligence.
- Both the nations have signed a new **Defence Cooperation Agreement** for closer security ties and easier purchase of weapons.

- Both the nations have agreed to complete the **free trade agreement (FTA)** by October 2022.

**85. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has signed formal shareholder agreement with **Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA'ZIZ)** for the joint venture named 'TA'ZIZ EDC & PVC'. This joint venture will construct and operate a Chlor-Alkali, Ethylene Dichloride (EDC) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) production facility, with a total investment of over **USD 2 billion**.

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## BANKING & FINANCE

- 86. Dhanlaxmi Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for the collection of direct and indirect taxes. With this agreement, the customers of the bank will be able to pay their direct taxes and GST payments, and other indirect taxes through the branch network and digital platforms of the bank.
- 87.** The Reserve Bank of India has recently set a **3-years** of the deadline for non-individual borrowers with aggregate exposures of Rs 5 crore or more to obtain **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** codes. With this, Non-individual borrowers with exposures of Rs 5 crore or more from banks and financial institutions will get LEI code on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025, with exposure between Rs 10 to 25 crore will get code on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, with exposure above Rs 25 crore will get code on or before 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- Departments/agencies of Central and State Governments (not Public Sector Undertakings registered under the Companies Act or established as Corporation under the relevant statute) are exempted from this provision.
  - **LEI** is a **20-character alpha-numeric code** used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide. It is being implemented to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data reporting systems for better risk management.
- 88.** The Reserve Bank of India has issued new directions for governing debit and credit cards and introduced penalties for banks for issuing or upgrading cards of customers without prior consent.

**Key directions:**

- NBFCs will need special RBI permission to issue credit, debit or charge cards virtually or physically with a minimum net owned fund of **Rs.100 crore**.
- Banks with a net worth of Rs.100 crore and above are permitted to undertake credit card business either independently or in tie-up arrangement with other card issuing banks/NBFCs.
- Urban cooperative banks (UCBs) with minimum networth of Rs.100 crore and a core banking solution in place can also issue credit cards after RBI approval.
- These directions will be effective from **1<sup>st</sup> July 2022** to every Scheduled Bank (excluding Payments Banks, State Co-operative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks) and all NBFCs operating in India.

**89.** The **Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has imposed penalties totalling **Rs.40 lakh** on four entities for failing to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act and public issue norms. The regulator has imposed a fine of Rs.10 lakh each on HPC Biosciences Limited, Tarun Chauhan, Madhu Anand and Arun Kumar Gupta.

- SEBI has also imposed a fine of Rs.5 lakh on Ashish Pandey, who was the CFO of Ricoh India and company secretary of FDSL in 2017-18, for violation of market norms in the matter of Ricoh India Ltd.
- In another separate order, SEBI has imposed a fine of Rs.5 lakh on Darshann Kayan over non-genuine trades in illiquid stock options on BSE.

**90.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the listing time for REITs (real estate investment trusts) and InvITs (infrastructure investment trusts) from 12 days to **6 days**. This will be applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022. Both REITs and InvITs are investment vehicles similar to mutual funds, wherein sponsors/managers pool money from investors.

- As of March 2021, a total of 15 InvITs and 4 REITs have been registered. Of these, six InvITs and 3 REITs are listed on the stock exchanges.

**91.** NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the International arm of the National Payment Corporation of India has announced that **BHIM UPI** has become operational at NEOPAY terminals across the **UAE**. With this, Indian tourists can now make seamless payments through BHIM UPI across NEOPAY enabled shops and merchant stores.

- NEOPAY is the payment subsidiary of Mashreq bank, UAE.

**92.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs 1.12 crore** on **Bank of Maharashtra** for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions, including those for know your customer norms.

**Other penalty imposed by RBI:**



- RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs.25 lakh** on Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank Limited for non-compliance with its directions on Housing Finance.
- RBI has also imposed a penalty of **Rs.12 lakh** on Rajkot Nagar Sahakari Bank Limited for non-compliance with 'Interest Rate on Deposits'.

**93.** The **Small Industries Development Bank of India** (SIDBI) has approved **Rs.600 crore** to the state government of Maharashtra to revive and upgrade various ITIs or Polytechnics under the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF). These ITIs /Polytechnics complement the MSME cluster in the state.

**94.** **ICICI Bank** has launched India's '**open-for-all**' digital ecosystem for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. The ecosystem is supported by 3 pillars:

- A wide range of added-value services for everyone.
- A variety of banking services to MSMEs who are customers of other banks.
- Enhanced banking services for existing customers.

This facility can be used by downloading the new InstaBIZ app, a business app, of ICICI Bank. The most essential of these services is InstaOD Plus, which provides an instant and paperless overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs.25 lakh. InstaOD Plus is an industry-first offering that allows customers of any bank to obtain an overdraft instantly.

**95.** **FinMapp**, a fintech firm, has partnered with **Bajaj Finance** to launch a fixed deposit feature on its application by adding a new icon for an improved customer experience. FinMapp offers an interest rate of 7.35% on the FD of app users.

**96.** Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a new feature named '**bob World Gold**' on its bob World mobile banking platform for **seniors** and the **elderly**. It is a one-of-a-kind digital banking platform that caters specifically to this demographic, offering a simple, seamless, and secure mobile banking experience.

**97.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has restructured its **Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)** which recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.

- The committee will be chaired by **M S Sahoo**, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- The committee will now have **21 members** (earlier 20).
- The committee also includes CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.

- 98. Suryoday Small Finance Bank** has tied up with New York-based **Kyndryl**, an IT infrastructure provider, for a period of **5 years**. The objective is to improve operational efficiency, and increase digital banking adoption among its customers. Under this partnership, Kyndryl will provide advisory and implementation services to the bank to deploy and support a new core banking system and integrate with digital channels to deliver an agile banking platform.
- 99. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has partnered with **SBI Cards and Payments Services Ltd.**, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, to boost SBI Card's digital transformation journey. It will also enable SBI Card to further expand its e-card issuance, delighting end customers and giving it a competitive edge in the market.

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- 100.** The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (WBSIDCL)** to develop the MSME ecosystem in West Bengal. The aim is to enhance cooperation between the state government and SIDBI to further accelerate the development of MSMEs in West Bengal in a structured and planned manner.
- 101. Airtel Payments Bank** has joined hands with **IndusInd Bank** to provide Fixed Deposit (FD) facility for its customers. The payments bank's customers can open FDs starting from Rs.500 up to Rs.1.9 lakh in few minutes through a digital process on the Airtel Thanks mobile application. With this, the savings account customers of Airtel Payments Bank will get a yearly interest rate of up to 6.5% and senior citizens will get an additional 0.5% on all fixed deposits.
- Airtel Payments Bank was launched in January 2017 by Bharti Airtel, India's largest telecom provider. It is India's first Payments Bank. The present MD&CEO is Anubrata Biswas.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 102.** The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced that Sir **David Attenborough** (UK) has won the **Champions of the Earth Award 2021** under the **Lifetime Achievement** category, for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.

**Other Winners of the Champions of the Earth Award 2021:**

- Maria Kolesnikova (Kyrgyzstan) under the Entrepreneurial vision category.
- Mia Mottley (Barbados) under the Policy leadership category.
- Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka (Uganda) under the Science & Technology category.
- Sea Women of Melanesia (Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands) under the Inspiration and Action category.

- 103.** The **National Mineral Development Corporation Limited** (NMDC) has swepted the **Public Relations Awards 2022** conferred by Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) by winning the first position in four categories. The entity has been conferred with this honour for their Corporate Website, Annual Report, Layout and Design of Newsletter, and CSR Corporate Video.
- 104.** Renowned snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist **Charudutt Mishra** has won the prestigious **Whitley Gold Award 2022** for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems. This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) Award. He got the first in 2005. He is the Executive Director of the International Snow Leopard Trust and Co-Founder of India's Nature Conservation Foundation.
- 105.** The Laureus World Sports Awards 2021 has been announced recently. The award honours individuals and teams from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year.

Laureus World Sports Awards 2021	
<b>World Sportsman of the Year Award</b>	Max Verstappen (Racer F1)
<b>World Sportswoman of the Year Award</b>	Elaine Thompson-Herah (Athletics)
<b>World Team of the Year Award</b>	Italy Men's Football Team
<b>World Breakthrough of the Year Award</b>	Emma Raducanu (Tennis)
<b>World Comeback of the Year Award</b>	Sky Brown (Skateboarding)
<b>World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award</b>	Marcel Hug (Athletics)
<b>World Action Sportsperson of the</b>	Bethany Shriever (Cyclist)

Year Award	
Lifetime Achievement Award	Tom Brady (Football)
Academy Exceptional Achievement Award	Robert Lewandowski (Football)
Sporting Icon Award	Valentino Rossi (Racer F1)
Sport for Good Award	Lost Boyz Inc.
Sport for Good Society Award	Real Madrid Foundation
Athlete Advocate of the Year Award	Gerald Asamoah and the Black Eagles

**106.** The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, for the first time ever, has awarded the **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022** to five individuals for their courage to protect and defend democracy in the United States and abroad:

- **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, President of Ukraine
- **Liz Cheney**, USA Representative for Wyoming
- **Jocelyn Benson**, Secretary of state Michigan
- **Russell "Rusty" Bowers**, Arizona State Representative and House Speaker
- **Wandrea "Shaye" Moss**, Fulton County, Georgia elections department employee

The award will be presented on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, USA.

*The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award was created by members of President Kennedy's family to honour President John F. Kennedy and to recognize and celebrate the quality of political courage that he admired most. The award is named after Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book 'Profiles in Courage'.*

**107.** The World Economic Forum (WEF) has published the 2022 list of the world's most promising 110 **Young Global Leaders (YGLs)** under the age of 40, involved in activities from green energy and health equity to refugee rights and education reform. The class of 2022 is gender equal and has representatives from 42 countries. The members will take part in a three-year leadership development programme that will help them reach their next level of impact. It is noteworthy that **seven Indians** have been featured in the 2022 list of YGLs:

Sector	Name
Arts, Culture & Sports	Manasi Joshi, Badminton player, Sports Authority of India, India
Public Figure	Raghav Chadha, Member of Parliament, State of Punjab, India
Social Entrepreneur	Jaideep Bansal, Chief Executive Officer, Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE), India
Business	Radhika Gupta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Edelweiss Mutual Fund, India
	Ritesh Malik, Founder, Innov8 Coworking, India
	Suhail Sameer, Chief Executive Officer, Resilient Innovation Private Limited (BharatPe), India
	Vineeta Singh, Chief Executive Officer, SUGAR Cosmetics, India

**108.** The founder of the educational charity 'Bidyanando' **Kishore Kumar Das** from **Bangladesh** has won the **UK's Commonwealth Points of Light Award**, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers. He has been honoured for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds.

- Kishore Das setup Bidyanando in 2013. It now runs five primary schools which provide free education and meal programme for vulnerable. He has also started a meal programme, 'Ek takay aahar' (Meal for one Taka).

**109.** The **India Pharma Awards 2022**, and **India Medical Device Awards 2022** have been presented by the Minister of State for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba, during the 7th edition of India Pharma and Indian Medical Device 2022 which has been organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Category	Winners
Indian Pharma Leader of the Year	Cipla Ltd.
India Pharma Innovation of the Year	Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Indian Pharma (Formulation)	Micro Labs Ltd.
Indian Pharma CSR of the Year	Zydus Lifesciences Ltd

India Medical Device Leader of the Year	Poly Medicure Ltd.
India Medical Device Company of the Year	Trivitron Healthcare Pvt Ltd.
India Medical Device MSME of the Year	Nice Neotech Medical Systems Pvt Ltd.
Indian Medical Device Start-up of the Year	Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
Indian Medical Device Innovation of the Year	Meril Lifesciences Pvt Ltd.

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## BOOKS & AUTHORS

- 110.** A coffee table book titled '**The Magic of Mangalajodi**' has been authored by **Avinash Khemka**, wildlife photographer and conservationist. The book provides a bird's eye view of Mangalajodi in Chilika, Odisha through fabulous images and descriptions. The book is published by Punjabi Global Foundation, Odisha Chapter in Balasore, Odisha.
- 111.** French Journalist **Roger Faligot** has authored a book titled '**Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping**'. The book traces the history of the modern Chinese secret service, with segments linked to Chinese espionage and the relationship between the country's intelligence agencies and party leadership.
- The book has been translated in English by **Natasha Lehrer** and the foreword of the book is written by **Vikram Sood**, the former head of RAW. The book is published by HarperCollins India.
- 112.** The chief minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled "**The Sikh History of East India**". The book has been authored by **Abinash Mohapatra**. The book is an extensive study on Sikh History in the eastern parts of India. This is a compilation of 8 books authored by him, which includes Sikh History of Bihar, Assam, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andaman and the Nicobar Islands.
- 113.** Maharashtra BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis has released a Marathi book titled "**Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal**". The book is originally written by Dr Anirban Ganguly and

Shivanand Dwivedi, and has been translated into Marathi by Dr **Jyostna Kolhatkar**. The book documents the life and journey of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and his contribution in building the BJP and making it the world's biggest political organisation.

## PERSON IN NEWS

- 114.** Eminent Physicist, Padma Shri awardee **Ajay Kumar Sood** has been appointed as the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India for a period of **3 years**. He has succeeded K Vijay Raghavan.
- 115.** Serial Entrepreneur **Babita Singh** has been named as the new **Global Peace Ambassador 2022** for promoting Peace through Education, Sports, Art, Culture & Diplomacy at the India International Conclave 2022 held in collaboration with Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) in Shangrila, New Delhi. She has been conferred with this honour for her exemplary contribution to her Peace building initiatives via Sports & Culture.
- 116.** Indifi Technologies, lending platform for MSMEs, has appointed **Rajnish Kumar**, former chairman of the State Bank of India, as an advisor. He will now engage with the management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector. He currently sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe.
- 117.** Noted economist **Suman K Bery** has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the government's think tank Niti Aayog with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. He has succeeded Rajiv Kumar who has resigned from the post in April 2022.
- 118.** **Ashwin Yardi**, the CEO of Capgemini in India, has been appointed as the co-chair of UNICEF's YuWaah' - the Indian chapter of Generation Unlimited. He will be a co-chair along with Yasumasa Kimura, the UNICEF Representative.
- YuWaah, supported by UNICEF, is a platform to bring young people together with the private sector, governments, and international and local organisations to turn them into active and engaged citizens.
  - YuWaah has set an ambitious target to enrol 300 young people as change makers.
- 119.** **Anshul Swami** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shivalik Small Finance Bank with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022. He has succeeded Suveer Kumar Gupta. Previously, he was associated with RBL Bank as Head of Retail & Inclusion, Products. He has also held positions with Barclays, Citi Financial and Britannia.

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited commenced operations as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. It is based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

**120.** BJP leader and former Union minister **Vijay Sampla** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for a second time. He had resigned as the NCSC chairman ahead of the Punjab elections and had contested the polls.

- NCSC is a constitutional body that works to safeguard the interests of the scheduled castes (SC) in India. **Article 338** of the Indian constitution deals with this commission.

**121.** Generali Asia has appointed **Bruce de Broize** as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Future Generali India Life Insurance (FGILI). He has succeeded Miranjit Mukherjee.

**122.** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the amalgamation of **Consultancy Development Centre (CDC)** along with its manpower, moveable assets and liabilities with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

- Both CSIR and CDC are autonomous bodies under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- CDC was set up in 1986 as a society and was approved as an autonomous institution in 2004. The objective is to promote and develop the consultancy profession in the country.

**123.** **Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frédéric Macron** has been re-elected as the President of France for the second term. He has defeated his rival Marine Le Pen by securing 58% of the vote in presidential elections.

**124.** **LV Vaidyanathan** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the FMCG firm **Procter & Gamble** for its operations in India. He will succeed Madhusudan Gopalan, who will be taking up a leadership role within P&G as Senior Vice President Grooming & Oral Care, P&G Japan and Korea. He will assume the office on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

**125.** The Liberal Freedom Movement Party's **Robert Golob** has been elected as the new Prime Minister of **Slovenia** after defeating Slovenia's three-time Prime Minister conservative SDS Party's Janez Jansa in elections. He secured 34.34% of the votes in the election.

**126.** **Krishnan Ramanujam**, a senior executive at Tata Consultancy Services, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and



Services Companies) for 2022-23. He has succeeded Accenture's Senior Managing Director in India Rekha M Menon.

- NASSCOM has also appointed **Anant Maheshwari**, President of Microsoft India, as the Vice-Chairperson for 2022-23.

## OBITUARIES

- 127.** Former President of Kenya, **Mwai Kibaki** has passed away recently in Nairobi, Kenya. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1931 in Gatuyaini, Kenya Colony. He served two terms as the President of **Kenya** from 2002 to 2013.
- 128.** Former Indian women's hockey team captain **Elvera Britto** has passed way recently in Bangalore, Karnataka. She was born on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1940 in Lloyd Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- She represented India against Australia, Sri Lanka and Japan and played her last match for the national team in 1967.
  - She was only the second Indian women's hockey player to win the prestigious **Arjuna Award** in **1965** after Anne Lumsden, who won it in the inaugural year in 1961.
- 129.** Renowned actor **Salim Ghose**, known for his performances in TV shows like "Bharat Ek Khoj" as well as films such as "Sardari Begum" and "Soldier", has passed away recently in Mumbai due to cardiac arrest. He was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He started his acting journey in 1978 with the movie Swarg Narak, following which he featured in films like Chakra (1981), Saarangsh (1984), Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho! (1984), and several others.
- 130.** The former chief minister of Meghalaya **J.D. Rymbai** has passed away recently. He was born on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1934 in Meghalaya, British Raj. He served as the 9<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of **Meghalaya** from 2006 to 2007.
- 131.** Senior IAS officer and former Union home secretary **Madhav Godbole** has passed away recently due to cardiac arrest in Pune, Maharashtra. He was the Union home secretary when the Babri Masjid was demolished in Ayodhya in 1992. He wrote at least 20 books as well as essays and articles. His books include 'the Babri Masjid-Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution.' He also worked for the Asian Development Bank in Manila for five years.

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## SPORTS

**132.** The 159<sup>th</sup> edition of the Wisden Cricketer's Almanack 2022, a cricket reference book, has been published recently in the United Kingdom.

- England's **Joe Root** has been awarded the title of Leading Man Cricketer in the World for his exceptional 2021-22 season and South Africa's **Lizelle Lee** has been awarded the title of Leading Woman Cricketer in the World.
- Pakistan's **Mohammad Rizwan** has been named as the Leading T20 Cricketer in the World.

### Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year 2022:

- **Jasprit Bumrah:** India
- **Rohit Sharma:** India
- **Devon Conway:** New Zealand
- **Dabe van Niekerk:** South Africa
- **Ollie Robinson:** New Zealand

**133.** The 16th edition of the **2022 Archery World Cup Stage-1** has been held in Antalya, Turkey. India has won **two medals** (Gold) in the championship.

- Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi have won the gold medal in the recurve mixed team event.
- Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini have won the gold medal in the compound men's team event.

**Note:** The 2022 Archery World Cup Stage-2 is scheduled to be held in Gwangju, South Korea from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022.

**134.** The **Serbia Open 2022** has been held at 'Novak' Tennis Centre, Belgrade, Serbia from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022. It is an ATP 250 tournament.

- **Men's Singles:** Andrey Rublev (Russia)
- **Men's Doubles:** Ariel Behar (Uruguay) and Gonzalo Escobar (Ecuador)

**135.** The 35<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2022** has been held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Japan has topped the medal tally with 21 medals, followed by Iran and Kazakhstan.

### India's performance:

India has finished 5th in the championship with **17 medals** (1 gold, 5 silver, and 11 bronze).

Indian Medallist at Asian Wrestling Championships 2022		
Men's Freestyle	Men's Greco-Roman	Women's freestyle

Ravi Dahiya (57 kg): Gold	Arjun Halakurki (55 kg): Bronze	Sarita Mor (59 kg): Bronze
Bajrang Punia (65 kg): Silver	Sunil Kumar (87 kg): Bronze	Sushma Shokeen (55 kg): Bronze
Gourav Baliyan (79 kg): Silver	Neeraj (63 kg): Bronze	Manisha (62 kg): Bronze
Deepak Punia (86 kg): Silver	Harpreet Singh (82 kg): Bronze	Anshu Malik (57 kg): Silver
Naveen (70 kg): Bronze	Sachin Sehrawat (67 kg): Bronze	Radhika (65 kg): Silver
Viky (92 kg): Bronze		
Satyawart Kadiyan (97 kg): Bronze		

- 136.** Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** has won the Menorca Open chess tournament held in Menorca, Spain. He has won the title by defeating fellow Indian B Adhiban.
- 137.** Netherlands Red Bull's driver **Max Verstappen** has won the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix 2022 held in Italy. Mexico's Sergio Pérez (Red Bull) has finished second and UK's Lando Norris (McLaren) has finished third in the tournament.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- 138. World Earth Day**, also known as International Mother Earth Day, is observed annually on **22nd April** to protect the environment, restore damaged ecosystems and live a more sustainable life. The day was first celebrated in 1970. The year 2022 marks its 52nd anniversary.
- United Nation officially renamed Earth Day as International Mother Earth Day in 2009.
  - **Theme 2022:** 'Invest in our Planet'
- 139.** The state of **Manipur** observes the **Khongjom Day** annually on **23rd April** to remember those gallant Manipuri warriors who made supreme sacrifice fighting against the British to protect the freedom of Manipur in the battle of Khongjom during the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War.
- 140. World Book and Copyright Day** is observed annually on **23<sup>rd</sup> April** to promote the benefits of reading, writing books, translating, publishing and copyright. The day is organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The day was first observed in 1996.

**Note:** Guadalajara city of Mexico has been named as the World Book Capital of 2022.

- 141. UN English Language Day** is observed annually on **23rd April** to create awareness and promote history, culture, and achievements associated with the English Language. The day also commemorates the birth and death anniversary of **William Shakespeare**, an English playwright, poet and actor. The day was first observed in 2010.
- 142. UN Spanish Language Day** is observed annually on **23rd April** to celebrate and spread awareness about the history, culture, and use of the Spanish language. Spanish is one of the 6 official languages of United Nations. The day also marks the death anniversary of **Miguel de Cervantes**, a renowned Spanish writer.
- 143. World Day for Laboratory Animals** is observed annually on **24th April** to highlight the movement to end the suffering of animals in laboratories around the world and their replacement with advanced scientific non-animal techniques. The day was instituted in 1979 by the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS).
- 144. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** is observed annually on **24th April** to create awareness about the advantages of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities. The day was first observed in 2019.
- 145.** World Health Organization (WHO) has observed the **World Immunization Week 2022** from 24th April to 30th April 2022 to highlight the collective action needed and to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. It is observed annually in the last week of April.
- **Theme 2022:** Long Life for All
  - The week was first observed in 2012.
- 146. International Delegates Day** is observed annually on **25th April** to spread awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to the United Nations. The day also commemorates the anniversary of the first day of the San Francisco Conference (1945), also known as the United Nations Conference on International Organization. The year 2022 marks the 77th anniversary of the San Francisco Conference.
- 147. World Penguin Day** is observed annually on **25th April** to celebrate penguins and to spread awareness about the threats and challenges faced by the Penguins.

**148. International Girls in ICT Day** is observed annually on the **fourth Thursday** in April to bring attention to the need of the girls and women in the ICT sector. In 2022, the day falls on **28<sup>th</sup> April**. The day was first observed in 2011.

**Theme 2022:** "Access and Safety"

**149. World Malaria Day** is observed annually on **25<sup>th</sup> April** to spread awareness to control and eradicate malaria. It is a preventable and treatable disease. It is caused due to the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito (which is infected with the malaria-causing plasmodium parasite).

- **Theme 2022:** "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives"
- The day was first observed in 2008.

As per the World Health Organization's data, as many as 241 million people were infected with this deadly disease in 2020, with most of these cases reported in Africa.

**150. World Intellectual Property Day** is observed annually on **26<sup>th</sup> April** to spread awareness of the impact of how patents, copyright, trademarks and design affect our daily life. The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000.

**Theme 2022:** 'IP and Youth innovating for a Better Future'

**151. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day** is observed annually on **26<sup>th</sup> April** to spread awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general. The day was first observed in 2016, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1986 nuclear disaster.

- **Note:** The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant is located in Ukraine.

**152. World Day for Safety and Health at Work** is observed annually on **28<sup>th</sup> April** to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. The day was first observed in 2003 by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

- **Theme 2022:** "Participation And Social Dialogue In Creating A Positive Safety And Health Culture"

**153. International Dance Day** is observed annually on **29<sup>th</sup> April** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, creator of modern ballet. The day also celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals.

**154. World Veterinary Day** is observed annually on the **last Saturday** of April to provide global leadership for the veterinary profession and promote animal health and welfare and public health through advocacy, education, and partnership. In 2022, the day falls on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

- **Theme 2022:** “Strengthening Veterinary Resilience”

**155. International Jazz Day** is observed annually on **30<sup>th</sup> April** to promote Jazz and raise awareness about its significance. Jazz was developed by African Americans. It was influenced by both European harmonic structure and African rhythms. It originated in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

- **Theme 2022:** ‘A Call for Global Peace and Unity’

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