



## Current Affairs Supplement

April 2022

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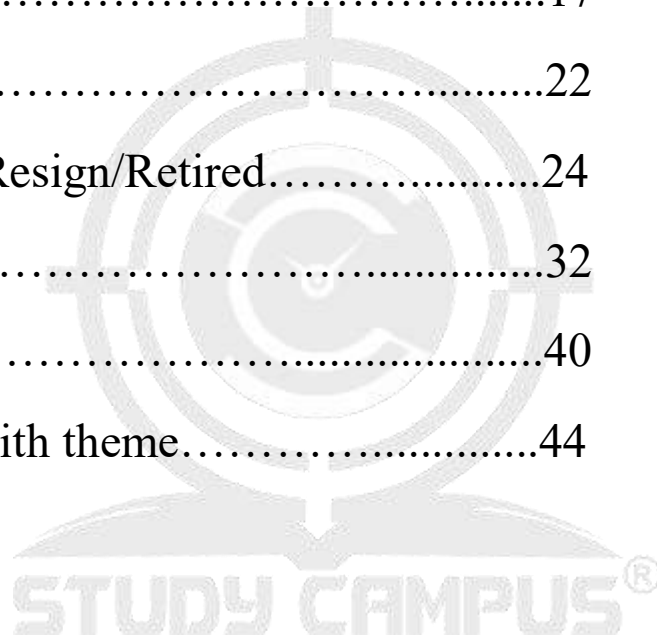
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## National

### UP Unseats West Bengal as India's Top Vegetable Producer; Andhra Pradesh Retains Its Lead in Fruits

**Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has become the **top producer of vegetables**, getting back its first position by demoting West Bengal to the second position, with a difference of a million tonnes(mt) in production in 2021–22 Crop Year (CY) (July–June), after two years since 2020. On the other hand, **Andhra Pradesh** remains the **top fruit producer**.

	Fruits production (mt)		Vegetables production (mt)		
	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	
Andhra Pradesh	17.70	18.01	Uttar Pradesh	29.16	29.58
Maharashtra	11.74	12.30	West Bengal	30.33	28.23
Uttar Pradesh	11.23	11.26	Madhya Pradesh	21.33	20.59
Karnataka	7.99	8.55	Bihar	17.84	17.77
Gujarat	8.24	8.24	Maharashtra	14.21	16.78
<b>All India</b>	<b>102.48</b>	<b>102.92</b>	<b>All India</b>	<b>200.45</b>	<b>199.88</b>

- India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25mt in 2021–22 from the previous year (2020–21) as production of vegetables, spices, and plantation crops is set to decline.

#### Vegetable Production:

- Vegetable production in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be 29.58 million tonnes (mt) in the 2021–22 crop year (July–June), down from 29.16 mt in 2020–21, while West Bengal output is expected to dip to 28.23 mt in 2021-22 from 30.33 mt in 2020-21.
- Other top producers of vegetables as per the data in the current year 2021-22 include Madhya Pradesh at 20.59 mt, Bihar at 17.77 mt and Maharashtra at 16.78 mt.

#### Fruit Production:

- In 2021–22, Andhra Pradesh is expected to produce 18.01 million tonnes of fruit, up from 17.7 million tonnes in 2020–21.
- Maharashtra is anticipated to produce 12.3 million tonnes of fruit, up from 11.74 million tonnes in 2020–21.

#### Measures by The Government of India (GoI) To Leverage the Horticulture Production:

##### Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme:

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) from 2014-15.
- It is launched with an objective to have holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushroom, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa.

### CJI, NV Ramana Launches 'FASTER' Program for Transmitting Judicial Orders

The Chief Justice of India (CJI), **NV Ramana** virtually launched the 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records' (FASTER) programme. It is a digital platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the Supreme Court to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel.



- It allows court orders to be transmitted in a quick and secure electronic format.

#### Objective-

To eliminate the situation in which inmates' release is delayed even after the Supreme Court grants them bail.

### **About 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records' (FASTER) programme:**

- i. The FASTER program was created in response to a news report published in July 2021, regarding prisoner release delays.
- ii. It is developed on war footing by the Registry in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- iii. All nodal officers have been connected through a specific Judicial Communication Network (JCN) by creating a secured pathway.

### **Dr Sreeram Chaulia Authored a New Book "Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises"**

Social scientists **Dr Sreeram Chaulia** has authored a new book titled "**Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises**". The book was published by Rupa publications India. The book was released by Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs at the India International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- Ambassador Lakshmi Puri, former diplomat and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) was also present during the event.



#### **About the book:**

- i. The book highlights the much needed public faith in the state to protect the country from security threats posed by India's external adversaries.
- ii. The book analyses PM Modi's series of decision making moves during the crises with China and Pakistan.

#### **About Sreeram Chaulia:**

- i. He is a professor and dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs of O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat.
- ii. He is a leading opinion columnist for Indian newspapers- the Economic Times and the Asian Age.

#### **Other Books:**

- Trumped: Emerging Powers in a Post-American World
- Modi Doctrine: The Foreign Policy of India's Prime Minister
- International Organizations and Civilian Protection: Power, Ideas and Humanitarian Aid in Conflict Zones
- Politics of the Global Economic Crisis: Regulation, Responsibility and Radicalism

### **HDFC Ltd to merge with HDFC Bank by FY24**

The board of directors of the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited at its meeting held has approved the amalgamation of HDFC Investments Limited and HDFC Holdings Limited with HDFC Ltd, and HDFC Ltd with HDFC Bank.

Subsequently, HDFC will merge with its banking arm, resulting in all the group companies becoming direct subsidiaries of HDFC Bank. Besides the bank, HDFC is the holding company for HDFC Life, HDFC

General Insurance, HDFC Mutual Fund, HDFC Credila and HDFC Venture Capital. This amalgamation deal valued at \$40 billion.

**Note-** HDFC Investments Limited and HDFC Holdings Limited are the wholly acquired subsidiaries of HDFC Bank Limited.

### **Highlights:**

**i.** Shareholders of HDFC Ltd as on the record date will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank (each of face value of ₹1), for 25 shares held in HDFC Ltd (each of face value of ₹2). The equity share(s) held by HDFC Ltd in HDFC Bank will be extinguished as per the scheme.

**ii.** After the merging, the HDFC Bank will be 100 percent owned by public shareholders and existing shareholders of HDFC Ltd will own 41 per cent of HDFC Bank through the transformational merger.

**iii.** The merger will enable HDFC Bank to build its housing loan portfolio and increase its customer base. The merger is expected to be completed by FY(Financial Year)-24.

### **About HDFC Bank:**

**CEO & MD-** Sashidhar Jagdishan

**Headquarters-** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Founded-** 1994

### **PharmEasy Appoints Actor Aamir Khan as Brand Ambassador of its #GharBaitheBaitheTakeItEasy campaign**

**PharmEasy**, a consumer healthcare app & brand managed by API Holdings Limited., has appointed bollywood actor **Aamir Khan** as the brand ambassador of its new campaign - **#GharBaitheBaitheTakeItEasy** campaign, conceptualised by FCB India.

PharmEasy's Television commercials(TVCs) featuring Aamir Khan will also be a part of the Indian Premier League(IPL) campaign 2022.



- As the face of the brand, he will also highlight how medicines, diagnostic tests, and healthcare products are available to customers through its app.
- This partnership aims to reach more people and ensure that affordable healthcare is accessible to everyone.

### **Tesla CEO Elon Musk Acquires 9.2% Stake in Twitter**

According to the United States' Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Schedule, 13G filing on 14th March 2022, Elon Musk, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesla Inc., has purchased a 9.2% stake in Twitter Inc.

This purchase has made Elon Musk the largest shareholder of Twitter, with more than four times the 2.25% holding of Twitter founder Jack Dorsey.

### **Key Points:**

**i.** The 9.2% stake amounts to nearly 73 million shares, worth around ~USD 2.89 billion. He owns 73,486,938

shares of common stock in his personal capacity.

ii. The disclosure of this acquisition led to a 27% rise in Twitter share price in pre-market trading.

**Note:** As per a 2018 SEC ruling, Musk has to get his tweets pre-approved to protect investors.

#### **About Twitter Inc.:**

**CEO**– Parag Agrawal

**Founded in** 2006

**Headquarters**– San Francisco, California, United States of America

#### **CMIE: Chhattisgarh tops states with lowest unemployment rate in country**

According to the latest data (5 April 2022) released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), **Chhattisgarh** has been ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate of **0.6 percent** in the country.

- The overall **Unemployment rate in India** has decreased to **7.6 percent** (March 2022) from 8.10 percent in February 2022.
- As per the data, Haryana has the highest unemployment rate at 26.7 per cent.

#### **Reasons for Decline:**

i. The Chhattisgarh government had adopted a new model of development on lines of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'Gram Swaraj' envisaging inclusive development of the state and launched various schemes including Suraji Gaon Yojana, Narva-Garva-Ghurva-Bari programme, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana etc. for boosting the rural economy.

ii. The state government has also set up the 'Chhattisgarh Employment Mission' intending to create around 15 lakh new employment opportunities in the next five years.

#### **Ranking of other states:**

States with Highest Unemployment rate	
State	Percent
Haryana	26.7
Rajasthan	25

States with Lowest Unemployment rate	
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State	Percent
Chhattisgarh	0.6
Madhya Pradesh	1.4

### Union Cabinet approves Indian Antarctica Bill

The Union Cabinet has approved the draft legislation, **Indian Antarctica Bill**, to provide a regulatory framework for India's research activities in Antarctica and protect the environment in the icy continent. The bill piloted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**) will be introduced in the ongoing budget session of the Parliament.

The draft bill is the **first domestic legislation** with regard to Antarctica in India.



- The bill is expected to support India to fulfil its obligations under the Antarctic Treaty of 1959, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources of 1982 and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty of 1998.
- The Indian Antarctic programme started in 1981 and has completed 40 scientific expeditions and built three permanent research base stations (Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1988) and Bharati (2012)) in Antarctica. Only Maitri and Bharati are fully operational.

### QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022: IIT Bombay & IIT Delhi among top 100 under Engineering & Technology list

On 6th April 2022, QS Quacquarelli Symonds released the 12th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022, the subject-wise rankings of institutes across the world are compilations of multiple lists.

- Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**)-**Bombay** ranked **65th** and Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**)- **Delhi** ranked **72nd**, are the only Indian institutes to be featured among the top 100 ranks under the Engineering and Technology category.
- IIT Bombay has scored 79.9 and IIT Delhi has scored 78.9.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology has topped the list with a score of 96.5 followed by the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.

### Top 3 QS World University Rankings 2022:

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),

2. University of Oxford,

3. Stanford University & University of Cambridge.

### **About QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022:**

i. The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022 cover a total of 51 disciplines, grouped into five broad subject areas.

- Arts & Humanities
- Engineering and Technology
- Life Sciences & Medicine
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences & Management

ii. The QS World University Rankings by Subject are compiled annually to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a particular subject.

**Methodology:** The rankings are based on research quality and accomplishments, academic reputation, and graduate employment.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind Gives Assent To Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill & Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill**

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill and the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill. Here on, the bill will be termed as **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022** and the **Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022**.

#### **Objective:**

The objective of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 is to authorise for taking measurements of **convicts** and other persons for the purposes of **identification** and investigation in **criminal matters** and to preserve records.

#### **The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022**

The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 has replaced the **Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920**. Several modifications have been made to control the crimes happening in India.

#### **The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022**

i. The Bill seeks to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 passed by Parliament. Later the Act was amended in 2011 by Delhi Legislative Assembly to **trifurcate** the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Delhi into,

- North Delhi Municipal Corporation (**NDMC**).
- South Delhi Municipal Corporation (**SDMC**).
- East Delhi Municipal Corporation (**EDMC**).

#### **About The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022**

**Ministry** – Ministry of Home Affairs



**Union Ministry of Home Affairs – Amit Shah (Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat)**

**Ministry of Home Affairs of State – Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar Mishra, Nisith Pramanik**

### **Tata Group Launches India's first its Super App – 'Tata Neu'**

On 7th April 2022, **Tata Group** launched India's first super app, **Tata Neu**, for the public. Tata Neu, developed by **TATA Digital** – a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, is a platform that combines all the Tata-owned brands like BigBasket, 1mg, Croma, AirAsia, IHCL, Qmin, Starbucks, Tata Cliq, Tata Play, and Westside into one application and offers exclusive privileges and benefits across categories.



- This super-app combines Tata's traditional consumer-first approach with the modern ethos of technology.
- The app will seamlessly blend product commerce, service commerce, and financial services into a consumer-first, future-ready, integrated experience.

### **Asia's Largest Sewerage Treatment Plant At Okhla; Set To Play Major Role In Yamuna Cleaning Process**

The **Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP)**, with a capacity of 564 Million Litres Per Day (MLD), largest STP in Asia, which is set to function in Delhi from **December 2022** will play a major role in Yamuna river cleaning process. Following the completion of this project the water quality of river Yamuna will be improved.

- This STP aims to remove contaminants from sewage to produce an effluent that is suitable for discharge to the surrounding environment or an intended reuse application
- According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the total sanction cost of the Okhla STP project is **Rs 665.78 crore**.

### **PM Modi Inaugurates 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya': Paytm Becomes Its Official Digital Payments Partner**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**, or Prime Ministers' Museum, in New Delhi (Delhi), to honour the efforts of all 14 Indian Prime Ministers since independence, regardless of ideology or duration in office.



- Beginning with exhibits on the freedom struggle and the drafting of the Constitution, the Sangrahalaya moves on to tell the tale of how our Prime Ministers guided the country through numerous challenges and secured the country's overall progress.

The inauguration took place as part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and to commemorate **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's 131st birth anniversary**.

### **About the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya/ Prime Ministers' Museum:**

**i.** The museum, which is a tribute to former Prime Ministers of India, will be opened to the public on April 21, 2022. PM Modi also purchased the first ticket of the museum before its inauguration

- The museum is built at a cost of Rs. 271 crores.

**ii.** It is constructed on the site of **Teen Murti Estate**, which served as the home of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, for 16 years until being converted into the **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML)** following his death.

- The museum incorporates the former Teen Murti Bhavan, which is classified as Block I, and the newly constructed Block II. The two blocks have a combined area of more than 15,600 square metres. No trees were felled or transplanted during the course of work on the project.

**iii.** The logo of the Sangrahalaya depicts the hands of the people of India holding the Dharma Chakra symbolizing the nation and democracy.

- There are 43 galleries in the facility, as well as exhibits on the freedom struggle and the framing of the Indian Constitution.

**iv.** The Sangrahalaya has employed cutting-edge technology-based interfaces to provide diversity in content and frequent rotation of the display.

- Holograms, virtual reality, augmented reality, multi-touch, multimedia, interactive kiosks, computerised kinetic sculptures, smartphone applications, interactive screens, experiential installations, and other technologies make the exhibition content more dynamic and engaging.

**v.** Paytm has become an official digital payments partner for the prime ministers' museum.

- It is offering its payment gateway, EDC (Electronic Data Capture) machines and QR code payment options to make way for superfast, convenient and secure transactions.

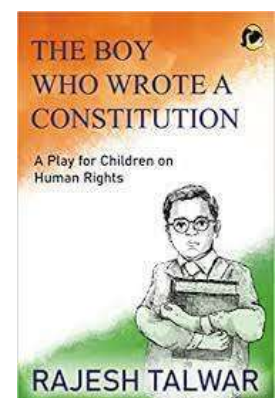
### **New Children's Book "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution" has been Released**

On April 14, 2022, during the occasion of Dr. BR Ambedkar's 131st birth anniversary, a new book titled "**The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution: A play for Children on Human Rights**" authored by **Rajesh Talwar**, a fact-based drama on Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's own recollections of his childhood has been released.

**i.** It is published by Ponytale Books.

**ii.** This book conveys the children about the challenging boyhood and grown-up years of Ambedkar who had written the Constitution of India and became the India's first law minister.

**iii.** Talwar's also authored books include "The Vanishing of Subhash Bose", "Gandhi,



Ambedkar, and the Four-Legged Scorpion”, and “Aurangzeb”.

### India to Get World's Highest Tunnel at Shinku La Pass

India is set to have the world's highest tunnel at **Shinku La Pass**, between Zaskar Valley in Ladakh and Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh. The tunnel is set to be built by the Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**) at an altitude of **16,580 feet** above sea level. Length of the Shinku La tunnel – 4.25 km.

#### Details of the tunnel:

- i. The BRO will start the construction of the record-breaking tunnel connecting Himachal Pradesh to the Union Territory(UT) of Ladakh by July 2022.
- ii. The centre has constituted a BRO team “Project Yojak” to execute the project.
- iii. The tunnel is expected to be operational for vehicles by 2025.
- iv. The Shinku La Pass will host the south portal of the tunnel and the north portal will provide access to motorists to enter Lakhang and the Zaskar Valley.
- v. The tunnel will reduce the travel time from Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh.

#### Note:

As of now, the highest tunnels are located in China and Peru, both not exceeding 16000 feet above sea level.

#### About Border Roads Organisation (BRO):

BRO, under the Ministry of Defence, is responsible for construction and maintaining the road networks in the border areas of India.

**Director-General**– Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary

**Headquarters**– New Delhi, Delhi

### Shivamogga Airport To Be Named After BS Yediyurappa: Karnataka Former CM

On April 20, 2022,

The Karnataka State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister (CM) Basavaraj Bommai, gave nod to name the under-construction **Shivamogga airport** after the former CM **Bookanakere Siddalingappa**

**Yediyurappa**, the proposal will now be sent to the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for further clearance.

- Shivamogga airport is being constructed at Sogane on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The estimated cost of airport construction is Rs 384 crore.

#### Key Points:

- i. The construction of Shivamogga Airport was begun in 2020 under UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme by the efforts of the Former CM B S Yediyurappa.
- ii. The Airport will be ready for inauguration by December 2022, which consists of the second longest runway in state measuring 3299 metres, the First being the Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, Karnataka with 4000 metres.



iii. Earlier, a list of names had been suggested for the airport, which includes rulers like Keladi Shivappa Nayaka, Keladi Chennamma and Mayuravarma, and Akka Mahadevi 12th century social reformer, Dr B R Ambedkar father of Indian Constitution and Kuvempu the national poet.

### **About Karnataka:**

**Governor** – Thawar Chand Gehlot

**WildLife Sanctuary** – Talacauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Thimlapura Wildlife Sanctuary, Yadahalli Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary

**Bird Sanctuary**-Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary, Attiveri Bird Sanctuary, Ghataprabha Bird Sanctuary

### **OIL commissioned India's First Pure Green Hydrogen Plant in Jorhat, Assam**

Oil India Limited (OIL), India's second-largest hydrocarbon explorer and producer, has inaugurated "India's first 99.999 % pure" Green Hydrogen Pilot Plant in Assam, marking the country's first significant step toward a green hydrogen economy.

- The first plant of its sort in India, has an installed capacity of 10 kg hydrogen per day and was commissioned in a record time of 3 months at **Jorhat** pump station in Assam.

Sushil Chandra Mishra, Chairman & Managing Director, inaugurated the plant in the presence of Harish Madhav, Director (Finance) and Prasanta Borkakoty, Resident Chief Executive of OIL.



### **Significance of Green Hydrogen:**

Green hydrogen is a term used to describe hydrogen gas that is produced using renewable energy such as wind or solar power and does not emit greenhouse gases.

- It can be utilised as a fuel in transportation, power generation, and industrial processes because it does not emit carbon dioxide when burned.

Hydrogen gas combines with oxygen to produce electricity and water vapour, making it a potential clean alternative to fossil fuels in a fuel cell that turns chemical energy into electricity.

### **Key Points:**

i. The plant is also the first in India to utilise the **Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM)** technology.

Green hydrogen will be produced from the electricity generated by the existing 500 kW (kilowatt) Solar plant using a 100 kW AEM Electrolyser array.

ii. In the future, this plant is expected to boost its green hydrogen production from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day.

iii. OIL has undertaken a detailed study on combining green hydrogen with natural gas for commercial purposes in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Guwahati, Assam.

### **About Oil India Limited (OIL):**

OIL is a state-owned enterprise of the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).

**Establishment – 1959**

**Chairman & Managing Director – Sushil Chandra Mishra**

### **PM Modi Released Commemorative Coin & Postage Stamp on 400th Birth Anniversary 9th Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur**

On 21st April 2022, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin and postage stamp to mark the 400th birth anniversary of 9th Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur. He also addressed the nation on the occasion of the 400th Parkash Purab celebrations at Red Fort, Delhi and remembered the sacrifice of Guru “Guru Tegh Bahadur” who stood against Aurangzeb’s tyranny to protect the dignity of their culture.

- He was popularly known as ‘Hind di Chaddar’, Jagat Guru. He was born in Amritsar and breathed his last in Delhi. He was the youngest son of Sri Guru Hargobind Ji.
- The programme shall be organized by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC).

### **PM Modi Inaugurates 500 KW Solar Power Plant in Palli; Palli becomes India’s 1st Carbon-Neutral Panchayat**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the **500 KW solar power plant** at Palli Village in Samba District, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), during his visit to Palli Gram Panchayat on the occasion of 13th National Panchayati Raj Day (24th April 2022).

With this inauguration, **Palli becomes India’s first carbon-neutral Panchayat.**

#### **About the 500 KW solar power plant:**

- The project was completed at a cost of **Rs 2.75 crore** and it was installed in a record time of around 2-3 weeks.
- The electricity generated by the plant will be distributed to the village which has a daily demand of 2,000 units.
- The 1500 solar panels placed across an area of 6,408 square meters will provide clean electricity to around 340 houses in the model panchayat under the ‘Gram Urja Swaraj’ programme.

#### **Other initiatives:**

i. PM Modi has laid the foundation stones for the **850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project** and **540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric project** which will be constructed on the Chenab river in Kishtwar District. These projects will ensure to meet the power requirements of the region.

- The 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project will be constructed at a cost of around Rs 5,300 crore and the 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric project will be built at a cost of around Rs 4500 crore.

ii. He also inaugurated the **8.45 Km Banihal-Qazigund Road Tunnel** built at a cost of over Rs 3100 crores. The tunnel reduces the road distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 16 km, and the journey time by



around 1 and half hours.

iii. He also laid the foundation stone of the **Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway**, which is being built at a cost of over Rs 7500 crore.

iv. He also dedicated **108 Jan Aushadhi Kendras** to the people of Jammu and Kashmir with an objective to provide quality medicines and surgical items to all at affordable prices.

- 51 of the 108 Kendras under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (**PMBJP**) are established in Jammu, while 57 are in Kashmir.

v. The PM has also launched the 'Amrit Sarovar Mission' and transferred the amount of the National Panchayat Award into the bank accounts of the winning Panchayats, in Samba, J&K.

### Jamtara Becomes Country's First District With Library in Every Village

Jamtara in Jharkhand has become the first district in the country to have community libraries in all gram panchayats. The district has a total population of about eight lakh has a total of 118 gram panchayats under six blocks and each panchayat has a well-equipped library which is open for students from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Career counselling sessions and motivational classes are also held free of cost here. Derelict buildings were converted into libraries, funds received from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and under the 14th and 15th Finance Commission.



- On November 13, 2020 the first district library was set up, with the assistance of Deputy Commissioner **Faiz Aq Ahmed Mumtaz**.

### India's first 'Amrit Sarovar' Completed in UP's Rampur

India's first 'Amrit Sarovar' has been completed in Shahabad's Patwai area of Rampur in Uttar Pradesh (UP). The initiative focuses on the need for water conservation.

- As a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (75 years of India's independence), the Prime Minister declared that each district should have 75 'Amrit Sarovars' or ponds.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi insisted the above initiative in his 88th monthly radio broadcast 'Mann ki Baat'.



### About Amrit Sarovar:

Under the Amrit Sarovar initiative, 75 water bodies will be developed and rejuvenated in each district as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

### Amrit Sarovar In Patwai:

i. In the UP's gram panchayat Patwai, a pond existed but was mired in dirt and neglect. With the help of local people, school children and coordinated efforts of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee

Act (**MGNREGA**) it has now been transformed and has built a retaining wall, boundary, food court, fountains and lighting.

ii. The cleaned and rejuvenated pond has become a big centre of tourism in the rural area.

iii. It also conserves water in need of the hour.

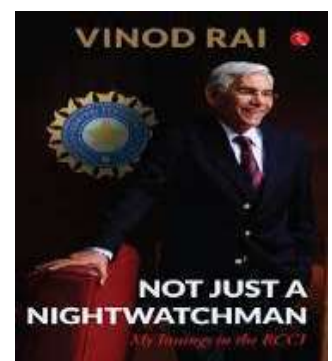
iv. The funds were raised from kshetra panchayat and gram panchayat.

#### **Additional Info:**

Also the work on the pond having the largest area (1.67 hectare) in Gram Panchayat Singan Kheda, a Village in Uttar Pradesh has also started.

### **Padma Bhushan Vinod Rai authored a new book titled “Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI”**

Padma Bhushan **Vinod Rai**, former(11th) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (**CAG**) India, has authored a new book titled “**Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI**”. The book features his 33-month stint as the Chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (**CoA**) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**).



- The book is published by **Rupa Publications India Pvt. Ltd.**
- He was honoured with **Padma Bhushan** in 2016 for civil service.
- He was appointed as the first Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) in 2016. His Other Books are: Not Just an Accountant: The Diary of the Nation’s Conscience Keeper Rethinking Good Governance: Holding to Account India’s Public Institutions, co-edited Seven Decades of Independent India: Ideas and Reflections.

### **Central Govt amends FEMA (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to Allow 20% FDI in LIC**

In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (aa) and (ab) of sub-section (2) of section 46 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999), the Central Government has amended Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 with **Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Amendment) Rules, 2022** allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** upto 20%, and to align with the modified FDI policy.



- The amendment also allows start-ups to issue convertible notes for a maximum period of **10 years** from earlier 5 years.
- FEMA stands for Foreign Exchange Management Act.

#### **Key Points:**

i. The Central Government is all set to dilute its 5% stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO). In this regard, SEBI has also approved the draft prospectus for this stake sale for an estimated **Rs 63,000 crore**.

- ii.** On March 14, 2022, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) amended the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy to facilitate overseas investment in LIC.
- iii.** Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, (LIC Act) as amended from time to time and such provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938, as amended from time to time, as are applicable to LIC
- iv.** The LIC public issue is expected to be the biggest IPO in the history of the Indian stock market.
- So far, the amount from the IPO of Paytm in 2021 was the largest ever at **Rs 18,300 crore**, followed by Coal India (2010) at nearly Rs 15,500 crore and Reliance Power (2008) at Rs 11,700 crore.





## International

### Ecuador – first country to give legal rights to wild animals

The South American Country – Ecuador became the First country in the world to give legal rights to wild animals.

#### About Estrellita case:-

i. Ana Beatriz Burbano Proaño, a librarian, Ecuador took Estrellita a month old Woolly Monkey from the wild to grow it as her pet, Proaño took care of Estrellita for about 18 years until the authorities seized her in 2019, as owning wild animals is illegal in South American country Ecuador.

ii. The authorities relocated the monkey to a Zoo but it died within a month because of the separation from the owner. Following which Proaño, the owner of the monkey filed a habeas corpus asking the court to rule that the monkey's rights were violated.

iii. The Judgement came in favour of Estrellita, the court acknowledged that the rights of the woolly monkey had been violated by the government and also added that the animal's rights were also violated by the owner when she removed the monkey from her natural habitat at a young age.

iv. The Court has finally stated that animals are subject to rights protected by rights of nature.

#### About Ecuador:-

**Capital** – Quito

**President** – Guillermo Lasso

**Currency** – United States Dollar



### China Unveiled The World's Largest Electric Cruise Ship Worth USD 23.5 million

China unveiled the world's largest electric cruise ship "Yangtze River Three Gorges 1" which costs around United States Dollar (USD) 23.5 million. The ship made its maiden voyage in Yichang, Hubei, China.

- The ship aims to promote and expand China's **marine electric vehicle market**, and to build a 'low carbon future' by promoting "Zero-emissions".
- Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 will be used for commercial purposes and for sightseeing trips in Yichang.



#### Yangtze River Three Gorges 1:

i. Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 was manufactured by **Yangtze power company** under China Three Gorges Corporation and the Hubei Yichang transportation group and supported by the Chinese government.

ii. The ship is equipped with Ningde Times batteries, with 15 independent battery packs adding up to around **7500 Kilowatt Hours (KWH)** developed by world's No. 1 battery manufacturer for electric cars 'Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Limited (CATL)'.

iii. As the ship is 100 metres long and 16 metres wide, it can carry about **1,300** passengers.

iv. The ship can travel upto 100 kilometres on a single charge. And the power to operate the ship comes from

the **Three Gorges Dam**, Yichang, China.

### **Specifications Of Yangtze River Three Gorges 1:**

- i. The ship has an automatic control system and intelligent power management system.
- ii. It has the world's first "high-voltage + low-voltage" charging scheme, and also it has Direct Current (DC) grid distribution system, full rotary rudder system, large ship DC inverter central air-conditioning system.

### **About China:**

**President** – Xi Jinping

**Capital** – Beijing

**Currency** – Chinese Yuan Renminbi (CYN)

### **AUKUS Defence Alliance Adds Hypersonic Weapons To Security Pact**

The United States (US), United Kingdom (UK) and Australia created a security pact and defence alliance known as **AUKUS** to develop **hypersonic missiles** and electronic warfare capabilities. The leaders of AUKUS are British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, US President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison.



- In 2021 the **Indo-Pacific alliance** included the sharing of nuclear-powered **submarine** technology.

### **Trilateral Cooperation:**

- i. The new trilateral cooperation includes information sharing and deepens cooperation on hypersonics weapons and counter-hypersonics weapons.
- ii. The AUKUS also planned to develop conventionally armed submarines for Australia.
- iii. It will also focus on cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and additional undersea capabilities.

### **Hypersonic Weapon Programme:**

i. The US and Australia have a hypersonic weapon programme called **SCIFiRE** (Southern Cross Integrated Flight Research Experiment). Also, the UK pretended to join SCIFiRE.

ii. The AUKUS planned to work together in the area of research and development.

- The US will invest **4.7 billion** United States Dollar (USD) in the research and development of hypersonic missiles.
- The US plans to have a hypersonic missile battery fielded by 2023, a sea-based missile by 2025 and an air-based cruise missile by 2027.
- Also Australia plans to spend **2.6 billion** USD to acquire long-range strike missiles for fighter jets and warships.

### **The United States's Hypersonic Missile Test:**

The Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (**DARPA**) of US, completed a free-flight test of an aircraft-launched hypersonic missile at a speed of more than **Mach 5** (3,800 miles per hour, or 6,100 kilometres per hour).

### UNHRC suspends Russia from Human Rights Council; India abstains from vote

Russia was suspended from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) after the 193 members of United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) voted to adopt a resolution moved by the United States of America (USA) due to the ongoing Russian- Ukraine conflict.



i. The resolution titled ‘Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council’ was adopted with 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions, including India (abstains because of “substance and process”).

ii. With this, Russia became the second country and First P-5 country to have its membership rights stripped at the rights council, which was established in 2006 (Russia’s current membership on the Council expires in December 2023).

iii. In 2011, Libya was the first country to get suspended by the assembly when the upheaval occurred in the North African country which brought down the longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi.

#### About United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

i. UNHRC is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.

ii. The Council has 47 members elected for staggered three-year terms on a regional group basis.

**Headquarters** – Geneva, Switzerland

**President** – Federico Villegas

### Union Ministers S.Jaishankar & Rajnath Singh visited US to attend 4th India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue 2022

i. On April 11-15, 2022, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), and on April 11-12, 2022, Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) paid a visit to the United States (US) to attend the 4th India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue 2022 on April 11 in Washington DC, US.

ii. This 2+2 ministerial dialogue 2022 between India and US is the **first** under the President Joseph Biden administration. It was hosted by the US’ Secretary of State **Antony John Blinken** and Secretary of Defence **Lloyd James Austin III**. It was a virtual meeting from the White House in Washington DC. India was led by Union Ministers of MoD and MEA.



iii. India-US announced the establishment of a new Education and Skills Development Working Group to further strengthen cooperation in the field of education and skill development.

#### Static Points:

i. India and the US have signed a troika of foundational pacts for deep military cooperation viz.

- Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016
- Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018
- Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020

ii. India and the US conduct regular bilateral and multilateral exercises, including the MALABAR exercise with inclusion of Australia, the tri-service TIGER TRIUMPH exercise, the multilateral MILAN naval exercise, the bilateral YUDH ABHYAS and VAJRA PRAHAR Army exercises, the bilateral COPE India air exercise, and Indian participation in RED FLAG.

### COVID-19 plunged 77 million into poverty in 2021: UN-DESA Report

In accordance with the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)** report, titled '2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Bridging the Finance Divide', the COVID-19 plunged 77 million more people into extreme poverty in 2021 and many developing countries can't recover because of debt repayments. Now, the Ukraine-Russia War has further impacted this situation.



- The report is a joint product of the **Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development**.
- The report is on financing to achieve UN development goals for 2030, including ending poverty, ensuring quality education for all young people and achieving gender equality.
- It was produced by the UN-DESA in collaboration with more than 60 international agencies, including the UN system and international financial institutions.

### Key Points:

- 812 million people lived in extreme poverty i.e. on USD 1.90 a day or less in 2019, and by 2021 this number had risen to 889 million.
- The poorest countries spent billions of dollars servicing their debts and faced much higher borrowing costs, preventing them from spending on improving education and health care, protecting the environment and reducing inequality.
- 1.7 billion people are faced spiking food, energy and fertilizer costs as a result of the war in Ukraine
- GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita in 20% of developing countries will not return to pre-2019 levels by the end of 2023.

### Elon Musk acquires Twitter for approx \$44 billion

Tesla co-founder and World's richest person (as of April 26, 2022) Elon Musk has acquired social networking service Twitter Inc. for approximately \$44 billion with shares valued at \$54.20. Now the company will be held privately.

- The all-cash deal for the same is expected to be completed later this year

### Key Points:

- Elon Musk is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of electric car maker Tesla Inc; and aerospace company SpaceX.
- His wishlist for the acquired company include Edit button, Free speech, spam bots, and changes in algorithm.



iii. Under this deal, he secured \$25.5 billion of debt and margin loan financing and will provide about \$21 billion in equity to fund the deal.

**About Twitter:**

i. It was created by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams in March 2006, and was launched in July 2006.

ii. The Current Twitter CEO is Parag Agrawal.



## Defence

### The First Edition Of IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) Held at Goa

The **First** edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was held in the Arabian sea and Goa port from 26 March to 30 March 2022. The exercise aimed to provide interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.

### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22):

IMEX-22 consists of two phases, Harbour Phase and Sea Phase

**i. Harbour phase** – the harbour Phase was held at **Mormugao port** in Goa from 26 to 27 March 22.

**ii. Sea Phase** – the sea phase was held in the **Arabian Sea** from 28 to 30 March 22.

### About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

**i.**IONS cooperates and collaborates navies of littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

- A littoral state is a country that has a coastline.

**ii.**It enables discussions on regional maritime issues, promotes friendly relationships, and significantly improves maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

### Participants Of Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22):

**i.**Navies of Bangladesh, France, India and Iran participated in IMEX-22 with warships, Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft, Amphibious Assault Ship, Frigates, Fleet Support Ship, Destroyer and helicopters.

**ii.**Apart from that, **22 Observers** from 15 IONS member navies, namely Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE and UK also participated in the exercise.

**iii.**The Naval Chief Officer of France, Pierre Vandier and Indian Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar was present during the sea phase exercise.

### Mechanism:

As per the guidelines and development of IONS HADR, the participants provided the response mechanisms of HADR from sea to shore as well as for rendering assistance to ships and crafts in distress at sea.

### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

**First Seminar** – 2008

**Members and Observers** – 25 Member Nations and 8 Observers (Qatar was included as 25th nation in July 2021).

**Host of 2021 Edition** – (7th edition) Hosted by the French Navy at La Réunion (French Department)

### 20th Edition of India – France Naval Exercise VARUNA – 2022

India and France are conducting the 20th edition of



the Bilateral Naval Exercise “VARUNA – 2022” in the Arabian Sea from March 30, 2022, to April 03, 2022.

- Bilateral naval exercises between India’s and France’s navies began in 1993. In 2001, the exercise was given the name “Varuna,” and it has since become an essential part of the two countries’ strategic bilateral cooperation.

The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise ‘VARUNA-2021’ was conducted from 25-27 April 2021 in the Arabian Sea.

#### **Highlights:**

- Various units from both navies participated in the exercise, including ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft, and helicopters.
- These units will work to improve and enhance their maritime operational skills, develop interoperability to conduct maritime security operations, and demonstrate their commitment to the region’s peace, security, and stability as an integrated force.
- The VARUNA series of exercises provides both the navies’ opportunities to learn from each other’s best practices. The exercise sets the stage for operational level understanding between the two navies, highlighting both nations’ shared commitment to the global maritime commons’ security, safety, and freedom.

#### **About Indian Navy:**

**Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** – Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC

**Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy)** – New Delhi, Delhi

#### **RS-28 SARMAT: Russia tests World’s ‘Most Powerful’ Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile**

On April 20, 2022, Russia had test-launched a new nuclear-capable Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) namely ‘RS-28 Sarmat’ for the 1st time from Plesetsk in northwest Russia and hit targets in the Kamchatka peninsula, nearly 6,000 km (3,700 miles) away.

- It is also called ‘Satan 2’.
- It will replace the R-36M ICBM (SS-18 ‘Satan’) in Russia’s arsenal.
- The Sarmat ICBM has been developed at the Makeyev State Rocket Center (part of Roscosmos) and is manufactured at the Krasnash enterprise.



#### **Key Points:**

- It is the most powerful missile with the longest range of destruction of targets in the world.
- Weighing over 200 tonnes and able to transport multiple warheads, it can hit any target on Earth.
- It is designed to elude anti-missile defence systems with a short initial boost phase.
- Sarmat is a three-stage, liquid-fueled missile with a range of 18,000 km and a launch weight of 208.1 metric tons, to be exact. The missile is 35.3 meters long and 3 meters in diameter.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Gulzar Ahmed To Be The caretaker Prime Minister Of Pakistan

Pakistan's Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan nominated former Chief Justice of Pakistan, Gulzar Ahmed as caretaker Prime Minister. The decision to nominate Caretaker PM is due to the resignation of Imran Khan, as he failed to prove the majority in the parliament and the Deputy Speaker dismissed the no-confidence motion and later the parliament was dissolved by the President. Ahmed was sworn in as the 27th chief justice of Pakistan in 2019 till 2022.



- Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial considered the legality of the current situation and issue a “reasonable order”

### Harsh V Shringla to Be Chief Coordinator of G20 Summit 2023

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has been appointed as the Chief Coordinator of the G20 Summit, which will be hosted by India in 2023. His appointment is effective from May 01, 2022, and he will hold the post till December 2023.

- Shringla, who will step down as Foreign Secretary on April 30, 2022, will be succeeded by Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who is the current ambassador of India to Nepal.

India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023 and will host the **G20 Leaders' Summit** for the **first** time in **2023**.



- The G20 Summit 2023 will be India's largest international event in recent years, bringing together the five P5 (US, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France) representatives in India at the same time.

**Note:** This is a newly created role for organising the summit, which will include both substantive aspects as well as logistics. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal will remain the G20 sherpa.

### About Harsh Vardhan Shringla:

- i. Shringla, an IFS officer of the 1984 batch, has been serving as foreign secretary since January, 2020. He has also served as ambassador to the United States, Thailand, and Bangladesh.
- ii. He played a key role in implementing India's Neighbourhood First policy into action by visiting Afghanistan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka during COVID-19, reinforcing India's commitment to assisting its neighbours.
- iii. He oversaw India's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), in which India received 184 of the 192 votes cast.

### G20 Bali Summit 2022:



It is the 17th meeting of G20 Heads of State and Government Summit which is scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia from November 15-16, 2022 under the Presidency of Indonesia with the overall theme of “Recover Together Recover Stronger”.

- The G20 Summit 2021 was held under the Italian Presidency in Rome, Italy.

### **About G20:**

It is a strategic multilateral platform connecting the world’s major developed and emerging economies. India is a founding member of the G20 Group.

India will be part of the G20 Troika (preceding, current, and incoming G20 Presidencies) from 1 December 2021 till 30 November 2024.

**Chairman** – Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia

**Formed** – 1999

**Members** – 19 world’s major economies and the European Union (EU).

### **India’s Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra Appointed as New Foreign Secretary**

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**, 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, as the new Foreign Secretary of India replacing the current foreign secretary, **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**, who will superannuate on 30th April 2022.



- At present, Kwatra is serving as India’s Ambassador to Nepal in Kathmandu, since March 2020. He will take charge as foreign secretary on 30th April 2022

### **Mian Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif elected as Pakistan’s 23rd Prime Minister, replaces Imran Khan**

The National Assembly of Pakistan, elected Mian Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif as 23rd Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan.

- Shehbaz Sharif, President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party secured **174 votes** out of 342 (Whereas a winning candidate needs to get only 172 votes for a simple majority).

**i.** Shehbaz Sharif, was elected unopposed because his rival candidate Shah Mahmood Qureshi staged a walkout by announcing that his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party will boycott the voting process.

**ii.** Shehbaz Sharif was the younger brother of former three time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (who was barred by the Supreme Court in 2017 from holding public office for his corruption charges) and also served as Chief Minister of Punjab Province thrice.

**iii.** Asif Ali Zardari, former President and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chair had proposed Mian Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif name for the PM’s position in a joint opposition meeting to replace Imran Khan.



iv. Following which a No-Confidence Motion was raised and removed Imran Khan from the office of Prime Minister, which makes Imran Khan becoming the First PM in Pakistan's history to get removed by No-Confidence motion.

v. Since Independence in 1947, Pakistan has struggled with political instability with multiple regime changes and military coups, and no PM has ever completed a full five-year term so far.

### **About Pakistan:-**

**Capital** – Islamabad

**President** – Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi

**Currency** – Pakistani rupee

### **Eminent Scholar-Academician Dr Manoj Soni Appointed as Chairman of UPSC**

Eminent scholar-academician **Dr Manoj Soni** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), India's premier government recruiting agency.

- His tenure as the Chairman will end on **27th June 2023**.
- He has been appointed to replace UPSC Chairman **Pradip Kumar Joshi**.
- Prior to this appointment, he was serving as a Member of UPSC.



### **About Manoj Soni:**

i. Previously Dr Manoj Soni has served three terms as the Vice-Chancellor (VC), which includes 2 consecutive terms as VC of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University (BAOU) from 1st August 2009 through 31st July 2015, and one term as VC of Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU) of Baroda from 2005 to 2008.

ii. While joining MSU as VC, He became the **youngest ever VC in India** and the MSU.

iii. He has also served on the Boards of Governors of several institutions of higher education and public administration.

iv. He also served as a member of a quasi-judicial body constituted by an Act of the Gujarat Legislature.

v. His research on "Post-Cold War International Systemic Transition and Indo-U.S.

Relations" was published as a book titled "Understanding the Global Political Earthquake" by Ashgate Publishing Limited in 1998.

### **Awards & Recognition:**

- "Honorary Mayor-President of the City of Baton Rouge" by the Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, United States of America (USA) in 2013
- World Education Congress Global Award for Distance Learning Leadership from Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, London, the United Kingdom (UK) in 2015.

### **About Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):**

UPSC was established on 1st October 1926 as Public Service Commission and later renamed as Federal Public Service Commission by the Government of India Act 1935.

With the inauguration of the Constitution of India on 26th January 1950, it was renamed as Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

### **Padma Shri Mahesh Verma was Appointed as Chairman of NABH**

Padma Shri Professor, Dr Mahesh Verma has been appointed the new chairman of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare providers (NABH).

He is serving as the vice-chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi. NABH is a constituent Board of Quality Council of India (QCI), operates accreditation, certification and empanelment programmes for healthcare organisations.



- He is also the Professor Emeritus at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences.
- He received the Padma Shri in 2014 for Medicine. He is also a recipient of Dr B. C. Roy Award and the National Science and Technology award.

### **Lt General Manoj Chandrashekar Pande appointed as 29th Chief of Army Staff**

Government of India has appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant (Lt) General Manoj Chandrashekar Pande as 29th Chief of Army Staff (COAS). He will succeed General Manoj Mukund Naravane on May 1, 2022. Lt General Pande is currently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff since February 1 2022.

- The Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Pande will be the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the COAS.
- The tenure of Chief of Army Staff is 62 years of age or three years whichever is earlier.



### **About Lt General Manoj Chandrashekar Pande:-**

**i.** Lt General Pande was an alumnus of The National Defence Academy, who was commissioned in the Bombay Sappers in December 1982.

**ii.** Following the Parliament attack in December 2001, Operation Parakram was launched to mobilise large-scale troops and weapons to the western border along Pallaswala sector, Line of Control, Jammu and Kashmir in which Lt General Pande commanded 117 Engineer Regiment.

**iii.** Later he Commanded the Andaman and Nicobar Command as the 15th Commander-in-Chief (CINCAN) from June 2020 to May 2021 and he also served as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, having taken over on 1 June 2021.

**iv.** With the appointment of Lieutenant General Manoj Pande as Indian Army Chief, all three service chiefs of the Indian defence forces will be from the 61st batch of the National Defense Academy (NDA)

- Indian Navy Chief Admiral Hari Kumar and Indian Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari are also from the same NDA course..

**Awards:-**

i.Lt General Manoj Chandrashekhar Pande has been conferred with following awards –

- Param Vishisht Seva Medal
- Ati Vishisht Seva Medal
- Vishisht Seva Medal
- Chief of Army Staff Commendation
- General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (twice)

**Note:** Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is still vacant due to the untimely demise of the country's first CDS Gen Bipin Rawat in a chopper crash in December 2021.

**About Indian Army:-**

**Headquarters** – Integrated Defence Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi

**Commander-in-Chief** – President Ram Nath Kovind

**Chief of Army Staff** – General Manoj Mukund Naravane (retire on April 30, 2022)

**Eminent Physicist Ajay Kumar Sood Appointed as Principal Scientific Advisor to the GoI**

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Eminent Physicist, Padma Shri, Prof. **Ajay Kumar Sood (AK Sood)** as the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India (GoI) for a period of **3 years** with effect from the date he assumes charge of the post, or until further orders. He will succeed renowned biologist **K Vijay Raghavan**, who retired on 2nd April 2022.

**Note:**

Prior to Vijay Raghavan, nuclear scientist R Chidambaram served as the PSA, and before that, the post was held by former President of India, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

**About Ajay Kumar Sood (AK Sood):**

- Ajay Kumar Sood, the Honorary Professor of the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is well known for his research findings on Graphene and nanotechnology.
- He is also a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
- He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2013 for science and Engineering.
- He holds 7 patents: 2 United States (US) and 5 Indian patents.

**Roles of PSA:**

- Science & Technology (S&T) fundamentals with applied research in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, both in central and state governments
- Enabling future preparedness in emerging domains of science and technology
- Formulating and coordinating major inter-ministerial S&T missions
- Providing an enabling ecosystem for technology-led innovations and techno-entrepreneurship

- Driving innovation and technology delivery towards solving socio-economic challenges for sustainable growth
- Fostering effective public-private linkages for driving research and innovation

### **Office of PSA:**

**i.** Cabinet Secretariat established the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the GoI in **November 1999**.

**ii.** The office of PSA coordinates with several Ministries and advises the government on science and technology policies and interventions that are of strategic socio-economic importance.

**iii.** PM-STIAC is one of the catalysts for such tasks and also oversees the implementation of the tasks.

**iv.** It has 9 major missions, Natural Language Translation, Quantum Frontier, Artificial Intelligence, National Biodiversity Mission, Electric Vehicles, Bioscience for Human Health, Waste to Wealth, Deep Ocean Exploration, Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNI).

**v.** PSA's office aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the Prime Minister and cabinet.

### **About Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA):**

**Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)**– Ajay Kumar Sood

**Headquarters**– New Delhi, Delhi

### **ACC Appoints Economist Suman K Bery as Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog; Succeeds Rajiv Kumar**

On 22nd April, 2022, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed Economist Suman K Bery as the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India). He will take charge on May 1, 2022 & will succeed Rajiv Kumar who will step down on April 30, 2022.



- The committee also appointed Suman K Bery initially as Full-Time Member, NITI Aayog with immediate effect and up to April 30, 2022.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has accepted the resignation of Rajiv Kumar with effect from 30th April 2022.
- Suman K Bery will be the 3rd vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog in less than 8 years.

### **About Suman K Bery:**

**i.** He has previously served as the Director-General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi, Delhi.

**ii.** He has served as the Chief Economist of Royal Dutch Shell Corporation in The Hague, the Netherlands.

**iii.** He has also served as a member of the Council of Economic Advisors in the Office of the Prime Minister of India, the National Statistical Commission and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy.

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

The Government of India constituted NITI Aayog in 2015, to replace the Planning Commission, which had been instituted in 1950.

The Governing Council of NITI Aayog is chaired by the Prime Minister of India (Narendra Modi).

**CEO**– Amitabh Kant

**Headquarters**– New Delhi, Delhi

### **Emmanuel Macron Wins 2nd Term & Re-Elected as French President; Defeated Le Pen**

The French President Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frédéric Macron belonging to La République En Marche! (The Republic On The Move) party got re-elected as the French President after defeating his far-right rival Marine Le Pen in a runoff election (Second Round) held on April 24, 2022, making Macron the first French President to get re-elected in last 20 years, before which only two Presidents have been re-elected for the second term.



#### **Key Points:**

- i.** According to Ministry of Interior, the centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron secured ~ over **58 percent** of the vote as against Le Pen, the candidate of the far right National Rally Party (Rassemblement National or RN), received ~ over **41 percent** of the votes (the highest in her last three unsuccessful presidential bids).
- ii.** Macron has become the first French President to get re-elected in the last 20 years, since Jacques Chirac in 2002.
- iii.** François Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac were the only Presidents who have served 2 full terms.

#### **About Emmanuel Macron:**

- i.** In April 2016 he launched the movement En Marche ! and served as its leader until his victory in the 2017 presidential election.
- ii.** He has served as the Deputy General Secretary of the Presidency of France from 2012 to 2014.
- iii.** He has also served as the Minister for Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs from August 2014 to August 2016.

#### **About French Presidential Election:**

- i.** According to Article 7 of the Constitution of France, the election of the President of the Republic is conducted in two rounds by an uninominal majority.
- ii.** To be elected in the first round, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority of the votes cast. Failing this, the two candidates with the highest number of votes in the first round participate in the second.
- iii.** The results of the presidential election are announced by the Constitutional Council .

### **Government re-appoints Vijay Sampla as Chairperson of NCSC & Iqbal Singh Lalpura as chairperson of NCM**

Vijay Sampla, Former Union Minister of State(MoS) for Social Justice and Empowerment, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for a 2nd time. He assumed the charge as Chairman of NCSC on 24th April 2022.

- Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, issued the official order of this appointment.



Initially, in February 2021, he was appointed as the Chairman of the NCSC and Ahead of the Punjab Elections he resigned from his post and contested in the polls.

**About Vijay Sampla:**

- i. Vijay Sampla has served as the member of the Standing committee on External Affairs.
- ii. He has served as the Chairman of Punjab Khadi and village Industries Board from 2008-2012 and served as the Chairman, Punjab Forest Development Corporation from 2013 to 2014.

**S Iqbal Singh Lalpura reappointed as Chairperson of NCM**

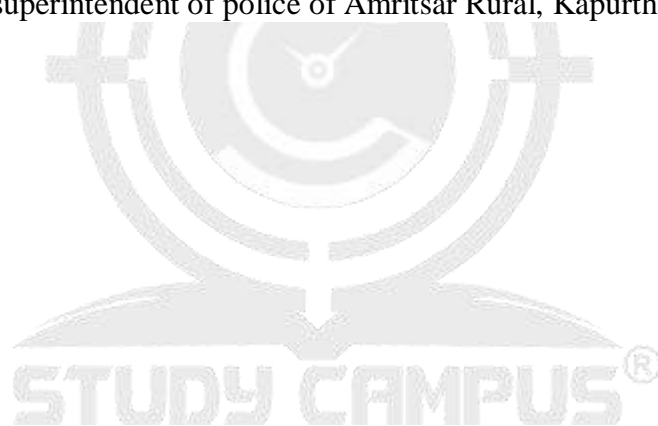
The Government of India(GoI) has reappointed S Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Former IPS officer, as Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities(NCM). On 14th April 2022, He assumed the charge as Chairperson of the NCM.

- He was renominated to the post by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- In September 2021, he was appointed as the chairman of NCM and later he resigned from the post to contest in the Punjab Assembly Election as BJP candidate from Ropar constituency.

Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi served as the chairman of NCM in between.

**About S Iqbal Singh Lalpura:**

- i. S Iqbal Singh Lalpura, an IPS officer of Punjab Cadre, who retired as deputy inspector general (DIG), Punjab Police.
- ii. He served as the senior superintendent of police of Amritsar Rural, Kapurthala and Tarn Taran districts



## Honours/ Awards

### Prof Wilfried Brutsaert bags Stockholm Water Prize 2022

On the occasion of World Water Day 2022 (22nd March), Professor Emeritus Wilfried Brutsaert was named Stockholm Water Prize Laureate 2022 for his work to quantify environmental evaporation. He is a Professor in Engineering Emeritus at Cornell University, United States of America.



- The Stockholm Water Prize instituted in 1991 is often described as the Nobel Prize, which is awarded to people and organizations for extraordinary water-related achievements. It is the world's most prestigious water award.
- The Prize is awarded by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and presented by H.M King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, who is the official patron of the Prize.

### 64th Annual GRAMMY Awards(2022): Jon Batiste and Olivia Rodrigo Wins Top Honours

The 64th Annual Grammy Awards (Grammy 2022) was held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. This was the 1st time a Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America (USA)

The 64th GRAMMY Awards recognize recordings released between 1st September 2020 and 30th September 2021.



- The Grammy Awards, presented by the Recording Academy or National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, since 1957 honour musical artists, compositions and albums.

### Highlights of Grammy 2022:

**i. Jon Batiste** (Jonathan Michael Batiste), an American singer, songwriter, and musician has won 5 Grammys which include, Album Of The Year for his Long Play (LP) **We Are**; Best American Roots Performance for **Cry**; Best American Roots Song for **Cry**; Best Score Soundtrack For Visual Media for **Soul** and Best Music Video for **Freedom**.

**ii. Olivia Rodrigo** (19-year-old), an American singer-songwriter has won 3 awards including the Best New Artist and she has also won the Best Pop Vocal Album for "**Sour**" and Best Pop Solo Performance "Drivers License."

### Noted poet & litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra Selected for Saraswati Samman 2021

India's noted poet and litterateur **Professor Ramdarash Mishra** has been selected as the recipient of the **Saraswati Samman 2021** for his Hindi Poetry collection titled "**Mein to Yahan Hun**". The book was first published in 2015.





- The recipient of the SaraswatiSamman 2021 is selected by a selection committee headed by Dr Subhash C Kashyap, former secretary-general of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

### **About SaraswatiSamman:**

- SaraswatiSamman, one of India's most prestigious literary awards, was instituted in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation.
- The award is annually presented to outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years.
- The award carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of Rs 15 lakhs.

### **About Ramdarash Mishra:**

- Ramdarash Mishra was born on 15th August 1924, in Dumri village in Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- He served as a professor in the Hindi department of the University of Delhi.
- He has served as a member of various Hindi Consultative committees in various ministries.
- He has around 32 collections of poems, 15 novels, 30 short story collections, 15 books of literary criticism, four collections of essays, travelogues and several memoirs.

### **About "Mein to Yahan Hun":**

"Mein to Yahan Hun" features the different aspects of inner life, societal concerns, communalism, corruption, human perspectives, exploitation of the Dalits, disquieting urban cities, the exuberance of the seasons and climatic concerns.

### **FalguniNayarOfNykaa Won EY Entrepreneur of The Year Award 2021 India**

FalguniNayar, founder & CEO of Nykaa, has been named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021 India. It is the 23rd edition in India. She will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on June 9, 2022, in Monaco.

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** A M Naik, group chairman of Larsen & Toubro.
- EY, a global professional services organisation, had earlier announced selection of 21 entrepreneurs as finalists for the '23rd Entrepreneur of the Year – India (EOY) 2021' Awards.
- KiranMazumdar-Shaw, Chairman of Biocon, won the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2020. She was the first woman entrepreneur from India and third Indian to win the WEOY.



The awards were distributed at a ceremony in Mumbai (Maharashtra), where BhupenderYadav, the Union Minister of Labour and Employment, as well as the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was the chief guest of the event.

**Note** – EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity.

### **Other Awards:**

There were also winners in nine other categories, who represented both mature industries and young

entrepreneurs from start-ups, including unicorns. A distinguished nine-member Jury Panel, led by K V Kamath, former chairman of ICICI Bank, selected the 9 winners from 21 finalists.

- **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

### **About EY Entrepreneur of The Year Award 2021 India**

EY Entrepreneur of the Year is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, strategy and transactions and consulting services. In India, the EOY program was formally launched in 1999 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### **Hyderabad And Mumbai Were Recognised As "Tree City Of The World – 2021"**

Mumbai and Hyderabad have been recognised as the '2021 Tree City of the World' by Arbor Day Foundation in association with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations, for maintaining urban greenery, while Hyderabad wins 'Tree City of the World' for the second consecutive time (2020, 2021).



- There are nearly 138 recognised cities from 21 countries, which have planted 38,787,795 trees in 2020.

### **Trees Planted:**

- Hyderabad has planted 3,50,56,635 trees over the last two years in 500 volunteer hours.
- While Mumbai planted 4,25,000 Trees in 25,000 volunteer hours.

### **Tree City:**

- Mumbai, which is known as '**Dream City**', becomes the **second** city to receive 'Tree City' recognition, while Hyderabad stands **first**.
- Mumbai becomes the leading global network in urban and community forestry.
- At first the total of 68 cities from 17 countries was recognised under the 'Tree City' for planting and fostering trees. Later in 2020, it grew to 120 cities from 23 countries.

### **Standard of recognition:**

- The city should have established responsibility, a tree board responsible for the care of trees within the municipal boundary.
- The city should have a law and official policy that governs the management of forest and trees.

- The city should have updated inventory of the local tree resources which will support the effective long term plans.
- The city should have a dedicated budget for the implementation of tree management.
- The city should hold an annual celebration of trees.

### **About Arbor Day Foundation:**

National Arbor Day is April 29, 2022. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the tree planter's holiday. National Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on different dates throughout the year based on best tree planting times in their area.

**Chief Executive** – Dan Lambe

**Founded** – 1972

**Headquarters** – Nebraska, United States.

### **Lloyd Endorses Sourav Ganguly as Its Brand Ambassador For Eastern Indian markets**

Lloyd, one of the consumer durable brands of major electrical goods brand – Havells India, has endorsed former Indian cricket team captain and current Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President, **Sourav Ganguly** as the Brand Ambassador of Lloyd for markets in eastern part of India. Also, Sourav will endorse Lloyd range of consumer durables through promotion, advertising and marketing. Sourav has been roped into Lloyd, as he portrays a rare blend of talent, class, intelligence, and popularity who also complements Lloyd's legacy and brand ethos.



### **Cyrus S. Poonawalla tops Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022**

Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla Chairman and Managing Director of Serum Institute of India (SII) has topped the **Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022** and became the richest billionaire in the healthcare sector 2022.

- He has topped the list with a new value of USD 26 billion (up 41%).
- Cyrus Poonawalla is followed by Thomas Frist Jr & Family of HCA Healthcare, Li Xiting and Xu Hang of Mindray at the 2nd position with a net value of USD 19 billion.
- **Dilip Shanghvi & Family**, of the Sun Pharmaceuticals, is at the **5th position** with a net worth of **USD 18 billion**.



China (34) has the most healthcare industry billionaires, followed by the United States of America (16), Switzerland (15), Germany (11), and India (9).

### **Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah Named in Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year' In 2022 Edition Of The Almanack.**

Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2022, a cricket reference book published in the United Kingdom. It is 159th edition of the most famous sports book in the world and published every year since 1864.

- India captain **Rohit Sharma** and Indian pacer **Jasprit Bumrah** along with New Zealand batter Devon Conway, England pacer Ollie Robinson and South African (Proteas) women star Dane van Niekerk have been named as the five players in Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year' in the 2022 edition of the Almanack.
- Besides, Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has earned the title of leading T20 cricketer in the world.



### **Leading Cricketer In The world:**

i. England's **Joe Root** has been named as Leading Cricketer in the world for his exceptional 2021-2022 season.

### **ii. Lizelle Lee**

- South Africa's Lizelle Lee is named as the Leading Woman Cricketer in the World, after scoring more runs in 11 ODIs (632runs) at a higher average (90) than any other player.

### **About Wisden Cricketers' Almanack:**

#### **Founder John Wisden**

Founded – 1864

Named as – “Bible of cricket”

### **UNEP Named Sir David Attenborough as Recipient of Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award 2021**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has named **Sir David Attenborough**, English natural history broadcaster and naturalist, as the recipient of 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.

#### **About Sir David Attenborough:**

i. Sir David Attenborough is well known for his innovative educational television programs, especially the nine-part Life series forming the Life collection.

ii. His well-known documentaries include The Green Planet and A Plastic Ocean.

iii. His noted works include the Life series: Life on Earth (1979), The Living Planet (1984), The Trials of Life (1990) and others.

#### **Awards & Honours:**

i. He was knighted twice by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985 and again in 2020.

ii. He has won 3 Emmy Awards and 8 British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards.

#### **Note:**

i. The year 2022 marks the 50 years since the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, which was one of the first international meetings on the environment.

ii. This conference led to the creation of UNEP, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022.



### **UNEP's Champions of the Earth Awards:**

- i. The UNEP's Champions of the Earth Awards honours individuals, groups, and organizations whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment.
- ii. This is the United Nations (UN)'s highest environmental honour.
- iii. Since its foundation in **2005**, the Champions of the Earth award has honoured 101 laureates, including 25 world leaders, 62 individuals and 14 organizations.

### **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy & 4 US Officials Received John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022**

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, for the first time ever, awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022 to five individuals — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, United States (US) Representative Liz Cheney, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Arizona Representative Russell “Rusty” Bowers, and Wandrea “Shaye” Moss — each for their courage to protect and defend democracy.



#### **Key Points:**

- i. The award will be presented by Caroline Kennedy and her son, Jack Schlossberg on May 22, 2022 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, USA.
- ii. **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, Ukrainian President is named for his valour to protect Ukrainian people during Russia-Ukraine Conflict.
- iii. **Liz Cheney of Wyoming**, Republican US Representative, stood up with honour in defence of her conviction even though she was ousted from her post last year (2021) for her criticism of former President Donald Trump and statements blaming him for the violence at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.
- iv. **Jocelyn Benson**, Michigan Secretary of State was awarded for her act of defending the Certification of the results and fulfilling the duties of her office and continues to speak out about the risks to free and fair elections during the protest done by Trump supporters for recounting the votes.
- v. **Russell Rusty Bowers**, Arizona House Speaker for their act of rejecting the request from Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani for the Arizona Legislature, to step in and replace electors legally pledged for Joe Biden with others who would support Donald Trump.
- vi. And finally, to Georgia elections worker, **Wandrea Shaye Moss**, she has been falsely accused of manipulating the results against Donald Trump, however she worked remotely and does her counting duty.

#### **About John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award:**

- i. The award was created by the family of the late president John Fitzgerald Kennedy to honour public figures who risk their careers by embracing unpopular positions for the greater good, and is named after Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage."

### **PM Modi Receives First Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award in Mumbai**

On April 24, 2022, The Hon'ble Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi received the First Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2022, for his 'selfless service to the country and society'. The award was conferred at the



80th Annual Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony held at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The Award was instituted by the Pune-based Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan, a public charitable trust run by the Mangeshkar family.
- PM Received the Award from the members of the Mangeshkar family.

#### **About Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award:**

i. The Award was given in memory of late Lata Mangeshkar on the occasion of her father Deenanath Mangeshkar's 80th death anniversary (24th April, 2022).

ii. The award will be presented annually to only one individual who has made path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to the nation, its people, and the society.

#### **Note:**

i. Lata Mangeshkar was born on September 28, 1929, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh (MP) & died on February 6, 2022 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

ii. The year 2022 marks the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar (Father of Lata Mangeshkar).

#### **23rd Laureus World Sports Awards 2022 : Max Verstappen & Elaine Thompson-Herah wins Top Honours**

The winners of the 23rd Annual Laureus World Sports Awards – 2022 (Laureus22) were announced over a digital ceremony broadcasted from Seville, Spain.

The 2021 Formula One (F1) World Champion **Max Verstappen**, a Belgian-Dutch racing driver and the Jamaican Olympic sprinter **Elaine Thompson-Herah** have won the World **Sportsman** of the year 2022 and Laureus World **Sportswoman** of the Year 2022 respectively.



- This marks Max Verstappen's first Laureus award and his 2nd nomination.

#### **Host:**

The 2022 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony was hosted by Olympian **Lindsey Vonn**, the greatest women's skier of all time.

#### **Gautam Adani Ranks 5 In Forbes' Real-time Billionaires List Overthrowing Warren Buffett**

As of April 25 2022, Adani Group chairman **Gautam Adani** surpassed Berkshire Hathaway chairman **Warren Buffett** to become the **fifth** richest person in the world, according to the 'Forbes' real-time billionaires list'.

The net worth of Gautam Adani is estimated to be United States Dollar (USD) **122.3** billion, where Buffett stands at USD 121.7 billion. The group has seven listed companies such as Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, Adani Power, Adani Total Gas, Adani Green Energy, Adani Transmission and Adani Wilmar.



- The returns have been multibagged from Adani Wilmar, by 235 percent, whereas Adani Power has zoomed 170 percent and Adani Green Energy has also gained 110 percent.

### **IBC Awards for Excellence in Built Environment 2021: Atal Tunnel Won Best Infrastructure Project Award 2021**

The 9.02 km long Atal Tunnel built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Himachal Pradesh(HP) has won the Indian Building Congress (IBC) Awards for Excellence in Built Environment 2021 under the Best Infrastructure Project category.



- Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General of BRO received the award during the 25th annual convention of the IBC.

#### **About the Atal Tunnel:**

i. Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi, dedicated the Atal Tunnel, built using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM), to the nation on 30th October 2020.

ii. The Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel globally and connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. Previously the valley was cut off for around 6 months due to heavy snow.

#### **About IBC Awards for Excellence in Built Environment:**

The IBC awards instituted in 1996 is an annual award which recognises the much-needed attention of society to the contributions being made by the professionals in the field of Built Environment.

#### **Features of the tunnel:**

i. The tunnel is equipped with a semi-transverse ventilation system, where large fans separately circulate air throughout the tunnel.

ii. For evacuation during emergencies, an emergency tunnel has been integrated into the tunnel cross-section beneath the main carriageway.

iii. The tunnel is also equipped with fire hydrants at specific locations throughout the tunnel.

iv. The air quality in the tunnel will be continuously monitored using a pollution sensor and when the air quality lowers below the desired level, fresh air is injected into the tunnel through 2 heavy duty fans on either side.

## Sports

### Formula 1: Max Verstappen Wins Saudi Arabian GP 2022

The 2021 Formula 1 World Championship winner **Max Emilian Verstappen** wins the first race in the 2022 season of Formula 1 in **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP) 2022** which took place in Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia.

- The Belgian-Dutch racing driver Verstappen represents **Red Bull Racing Honda**.



### Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP) 2022

- Driving 50 laps, Verstappen finished first with **25** points.
- Charles Leclerc represents the Ferrari racing team, finishing second with 15 points.
- Carlos Sainz, who also represents the Ferrari racing team, finished third with 15 points.

### Max Emilian Verstappen:

- Verstappen is the Netherlands' **first** Formula 1 world champion at the age of 24.
- He has also made 61 podium finishes in 143 GP.
- He has won **21** Grand Prix.

### Achievements Of Max Emilian Verstappen:

- Verstappen Finished 3rd in Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) F3 European Championship in 2014.
- He won FIA Personality of the Year in 2015, 2016, 2017.
- He has also won 2015 FIA Rookie of the Year Lorenzo Bandini Trophy.

### Logo, Jersey, mascot and anthem were unveiled for the 2nd edition of KIUG 2021

The Governor of Karnataka, Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem in the **2nd edition of Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021)** at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

i. The below things were unveiled during the event:-

- **Logo and official mascot** of the games – Veera,
- **Khelo India App** for live updates,
- The official anthem was sung by Chandan Shetty and Nikhil Joshi, and
- The jersey for the **2nd edition of Khelo India University Games 2021**



ii. The Khelo India University Games is a platform aimed at identifying talent for the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and for the Olympics.



- iii. The event saw the participation of 4500 athletes, representing 20 sports from across India and the event was hosted by Jain University, Karnataka.
- iv. The KIUG 2021 is indeed the first sporting event to introduce **Yogasana and Mallakhamb** in the competition category, among 20 sporting disciplines.
- v. The Karnataka government has declared the KIUG 2021 as Green Games – zero-waste, zero-plastic Games.
- vi. The first edition of Kehlo India university Games 2020 was hosted by Odisha.

### Australian Women's Cricket Team Were Crowned As The Champions Of 2022 ICC Women's Cricket

The **twelfth edition** of the ICC (International Cricket Council) Women's Cricket World Cup was held in New Zealand from March to April 2022. In which the **Australian women's** cricket team were crowned as the champions of the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket by defeating England women's cricket team in the finals by 71 runs in Hagley Oval, Christchurch, New Zealand.



- The Australian women's team was awarded **1.32 million** United States Dollar (USD) and the Runner-up team (England women's team) won USD 600,000.

#### Performer Of The Tournament:

i. **Alyssa Healy** (Australia) has been named as the '**Player of the Tournament**' for scoring 509 runs in 9 matches, she is the first player to score 500-plus runs in a single edition of the Women's One-Day International (ODI) World Cup.

#### Records By Indian women's cricket team:

i. **Jhulan Goswami** (Bowler) of India became the highest wicket-taker in the World Cup Tournament bagging overall of 43 wickets. **Indian bowler Jhulan Goswami** achieved this with 40 wickets in 31 matches, beating Australia's Lyn Fullston's 39 wickets in Women World cup tournaments.

ii. Indian women's team ODI skipper **Mithali Raj** broke the record for most matches captained (24 matches) in the ICC Women's World Cup.

#### About ICC (International Cricket Council):

**Chairman** – Greg Barclay

**Establishment** – 1909

**Headquarters** – Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### Adidas Unveiled 'Al Rihla' The Official Ball For 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup

Adidas, one of the top sports brands, unveiled the official ball '**Al Rihla**' for the 2022 FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Qatar World cup matches. Al Rihla means "the journey" in Arabic, and it was inspired by the architecture, iconic boats, and the flag of Qatar. With the environment at its heart, it is the first World Cup ball made using only water-based inks



and glues. It is the 14th successive ball that Adidas has created for the FIFA World Cup. Al Rihla is made of polyurethane (PU) skin featuring micro and macro textures and a new 20-piece panel shape enhances aerodynamics to improve the accuracy and field play.

- Being the first World Cup ball in the 92-year history, Al Rihla contributes 1% of the funds to the Common Goal movement.

### La'eeb unveiled as official mascot for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has unveiled **La'eeb** as the official **mascot** for the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 during the draw for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**, which took place in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

**i.** "La'eeb" – a super skilled player (in Arabic), is playful, adventurous and curious.

**ii.** According to FIFA and the Tournament organising body, The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC), **the mascot represents** donning the flowing Qatari National dress and trying to stop the football in air.

**iii.** According to the Supreme Committee (SC), La'eeb comes from a parallel world where tournament mascots live. It is a world where ideas and creativity form the basis of characters that live in the minds of everyone.

**iv.** Also La'eeb encourages everyone to believe in themselves as 'Now is All'.

#### Note:

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 is the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East and also in the Arab World.



### The Victoria State Of Australia To Host 2026 Commonwealth Games

Australia's **Victoria state** will be the host for 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG). The 2026 Games will be held in four towns such as Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland of Australia. The opening ceremony will be held at Australia's largest cricket stadium – the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). MCG can hold 100,000 spectators.



- So far Victoria state has announced **16 sports** for the 2026 Games, which includes aquatics, cycling and Twenty20 cricket.

#### Australia And Commonwealth Games (CWG):

**i.** Australia is hosting the CWG for the **sixth time** and the second time in Victoria, after Melbourne hosted the 2006 event.

**ii.** The 2026 Games are planned to be held outside the state capital Melbourne.

**iii.** CWG in Australia:

- **2018** – Commonwealth Games, Gold Coast, Queensland. The motto was "Friendly Games".
- **2006** – Commonwealth Games, Melbourne, Victoria .

- **1982** – Commonwealth Games, Brisbane, Queensland.
- **1962** – British Empire and Commonwealth Games, Perth, Western Australia.
- **1938** – British Empire Games, Sydney, New South Wales.

iv. The CWG will not only uplift the life of the athletes but also boosts the Victoria state economy by 3 billion United States Dollar (USD).

#### **Towns And Games:**

- **Geelong** – a port city, will host swimming, gymnastics, beach volleyball and other sports.
- **Ballarat and Bendigo** – will host athletics, boxing, netball, squash and weightlifting.
- **Gippsland** – will host rugby sevens, badminton and cycling.

#### **About Commonwealth Games (CWG):**

i. The CWG is held every four years.

ii. There are **72** nations and territories of the Commonwealth, almost all of whom are former territories of the British Empire.

iii. The four Home Nations of the United Kingdom (**England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**) also send separate teams.

#### **Commonwealth Games Federation (CWF):**

**President** – Dame Louise Martin DBE

**Headquarters** – United Kingdom

**Birmingham** will host the 2022 CWG from 28 July 2022 to 08 August 2022 under the motto ‘**Games for Everyone**’.

#### **West Indies Cricketer Kieron Pollard Announced Retirement from International Cricket**

On April 20, 2022, The West Indies cricketer and all-rounder, Kieron Adrian Pollard announced his retirement from his 15 year career in International Cricket. He hails from Tacarigua, Trinidad.

#### **Highlights of his Cricket Career:**

i. Pollard, made his One Day International (ODI) debut in 2007 and became the first West Indies player in White-ball cricket to represent 101 Twenty 20 Internationals (T20Is) and 123 ODIs.

ii. He was a key player of the West Indies team which won the International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 Cricket world cup in 2012 and only missed West Indies’ triumph at the 2016 tournament due to injury.

iii. Pollard was appointed as captain for both ODI and T20 teams in 2019, with series wins over Australia and England.

iv. Totally Pollard had scored 2706 runs and took 55 wickets in ODI cricket and 1569 runs at a strike rate of 135.14 in T20Is besides, picking 42 wickets at medium pace.

v. Lastly in March 2021, Pollard became the only third player in the history of the men’s international games to hit six sixes in a single over against Sri Lanka’s Akila Dananjaya, The other two players are Herschelle Gibbs and Yuvraj Singh (Later USA’s Jaskaran Malhotra joins the elite club on September 2021).

**Note:** Pollard never played Test Cricket.



## Important Days with theme

### World Health Day 2022 – April 7

World Health Day is annually observed across the globe on 7th April to bring attention to a specific topic of concern to people across the world.

World Health Day also marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) on **7th April 1948**.

The theme of World Health Day 2022 is “**Our Planet, Our Health**”.

#### Background:

- i. The first World Health Assembly (WHA) decided that the WHO should sponsor the observance of World Health Day on 22nd July of every year.
- ii. Later, the 2nd World Health Assembly decided that starting from **1950**, every year the 7th April will be observed as World Health Day.



### 38th Siachen Day – 13th April 2022

Siachen Day is annually observed by the Indian Army on 13th April, since 1984, to commemorate the Indian Army's "Operation Meghdoot". The day also honours the courage of the soldiers of the Indian Army who continue to guard the Siachen Glacier.



- **13th April 2022** marks the observance of the **38th Siachen Day**.

Siachen Glacier, 76 kilometres long, one of the world's longest mountain glaciers, lies in the Karakoram Range system of Kashmir near the India-Pakistan border.

#### Operation Meghdoot:

- i. Operation Meghdoot was the codename of the Indian Armed Forces' operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir and pre-empt Pakistan from occupying the Saltoro ridge and Siachen Glacier.
- ii. The operation was executed on 13th April 1984 on the highest battlefield in the world.
- iii. At present, the Indian Army remains the **first and only army** in the world to have taken tanks and other heavy ordnance up to such an altitude (well over 5,000 m or 16,000 ft).
- iv. The map of Siachen by mountaineering legend Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar, played a major role in ensuring the success of Operation Meghdoot in 1984.

#### Note:

In 2003, Late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam became the first President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to visit the troops deployed in 'Operation Meghdoot.'

### 103rd Anniversary of JallianwalaBagh Massacre – 13th April 2022

13th April 2022 marks the 103rd anniversary of the JallianwalaBagh Massacre, which is also known as the Amritsar massacre, which took place on **13th April 1919**. The commemoration of the anniversary of the JallianwalaBagh Massacre aims to pay homage to all the people who were martyred during the massacre.

#### JallianwalaBagh Massacre:

- i. On 13th April 1919, more than hundreds of people who were protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Acts were gunned down by the British forces led by British Indian Army officer Brigadier-General **Reginald Edward Harry Dyer (R E H Dyer)**.
- ii. In October 1919, 7 member Disorders Inquiry Committee '**Hunter Committee**' headed by Lord William Hunter, a Senator of the College of Justice of Scotland was established to investigate the JallianwalaBagh Tragedy. Later Dyer was removed from the command into enforced retirement.

#### JallianwalaBagh:

- i. JallianwalaBagh is a public garden located in Amritsar, Punjab. The garden houses the JallianwalaBagh National Memorial, a memorial of national importance, established in 1951 to commemorate the massacre.
- ii. The memorial is managed by the **JallianwalaBagh National Memorial Trust**, chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
- iii. People have also gathered at the JallianwalaBagh to protest against the arrest of two pro-independence leaders — Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal. Many other people were also at the venue to celebrate the festival of Baisakhi.



### World Liver Day 2022 – 19th April

World Liver Day is annually observed across the globe on 19th April to create awareness about various liver-related diseases and conditions and the importance of the liver which plays a vital role in the human digestive system.

The day also aims to motivate people to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

- i. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) report (2018), Liver diseases are the 10th most common cause of death among Indians.
- ii. The most common causes of liver-related deaths in India are Alcohol, Hepatotropic viruses and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).



### National Civil Services Day 2022 – April 21

The National Civil Services Day is annually observed across India on 21st April to celebrate the Civil Servants who serve the nation in different terrains and across different sectors.



The day recognises the contribution of the civil servants who help the citizens and enhance the national progress.

- **21st April 2022** marks the observance of the **15th National Civil Services Day**.

The theme of Civil Services Day 2022 is “**Vision India@2047 – Bringing Citizens and Government closer**”.

#### **Key Points:**

- Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions inaugurated the **15th National Civil Services Day** function in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.
- On the occasion of the National Civil Services Day 2022, Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi conferred the PM’s Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2021.

### **International Mother Earth Day 2022 – 22 April**

The United Nations(UN)’s International Mother Earth Day (also known as World Earth Day) is annually observed across the globe on 22nd April to honour the Earth and the concept of peace. The day also reminds the need for a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet.

- Earth Day (22nd April) marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.
- **22nd April 2022** marks the observance of the **52nd Earth Day**.



The theme of Earth Day 2022 is “**Invest In Our Planet**”.

#### **Background:**

- Peace activist John McConnell proposed to observe the Earth Day, at the 1969 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO) Conference held in San Francisco, United States of America (USA).
- 22nd April** has been observed as Earth Day since 1970 by the EARTHDAY.ORG in more than 190 countries.
- The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/63/278 on 22nd April 2009 and proclaimed the 22nd April of every year as International Mother Earth Day.

### **13th National Panchayati Raj Day – 24th April 2022**

National Panchayati Raj Day(NPRD) is annually observed across India on **24th April** to celebrate the constitutional status accorded to the Panchayati Raj system of India. The observance of the day is annually organised by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

**24th April 2022** marks the celebration of the **13th National Panchayati Raj Day**.

#### **Background:**

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj annually commemorates the 24th of April as the National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD), which marks the



historic day on which decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj, through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force.

- 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into force on **24th April 1993**.
- The **first** edition of National Panchayati Raj Day was observed on **24th April 2010**.

**Event:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Jammu & Kashmir(J&K) to participate in the celebration of NPRD. He visited Palli Panchayat in the Samba district and interacted with a local Panchayat representative.

**About Ministry of Panchayati Raj:**

**Union Minister**– Giriraj Singh (Constituency- Begusarai, Bihar)

**Minister of State**– Kapil Moreshwar Patil (Constituency- Bhiwandi, Maharashtra)

