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PAHUJA
Law Academy

Current Affairs - English ***APRIL' 2022***



**GUIDANCE BY EXPERIENCED JUDGES,
ADVOCATES AND ACADEMICIANS.....**

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President gives assent to Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act 2022

- President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022.
- The objective of the Act is to authorize for taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation in criminal matters and to preserve records.
- The new Act has replaced the Identification of Prisoners Act, of 1920.
- Under the bill, police or prison officer up to the rank of a Head Constable are allowed to take measurements of any person who resists or refuses to give measurements.
- The motive behind bringing the bill is to increase conviction rate in country and to bring down the crime rates.
- As per NCRB data, conviction rate in cases of murder stood at 44% in 2022. It stood at mere 24% in attempt to murder cases.

Child Adoption in India

- The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a plea seeking to simplify the legal process for child adoption in India.
- Adoption (First Amendment) Regulations, 2021 were notified in 2021, allowing Indian diplomatic missions abroad to be in charge of safeguarding adopted children when parents move overseas with the child within two years of adoption.
- There is a wide gap between adoptable children and prospective parents, which may lengthen the adoption process.
- According to data, while over 29,000 prospective parents are willing to adopt, there are only 2,317 children available for adoption.
- The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 (HAMA) and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) govern adoption in India.

Chief Justice of India on Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recently come under deep public scrutiny, according to Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana.
- Its actions and inactions have called its credibility into question.
- The CJI has proposed an umbrella, independent, and autonomous investigative body in order to reform law enforcement agencies.
- The CBI was established in 1963 by a Ministry of Home Affairs resolution.
- The CBI is now administered by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions' Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

The Supreme Court has called for corrective measures to combat the spread of communal hatred

- Following incidents of hate speech in Haridwar and Delhi, the Uttarakhand government has been ordered to ensure that no hate speech is made during Roorkee Dharma Sansad.
- The Haridwar police filed a complaint under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (promoting enmity between different communities on religious grounds), which carries a maximum sentence of five years.

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- It revised the current FIR on January 1 to include Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code
- The authorities in Uttarakhand have blocked the staging of a 'dharam sansad' in Roorkee by issuing prohibitory orders against such meetings, following the Supreme Court's call for "corrective measures"

Rape laws are being misused today: Justice BN Srikrishna

- The retired Supreme Court Justice B.N. Srikrishna said that "There is no doubt that rape laws are being exploited in the country,".
- He referred to the statistics which indicate a low conviction rate in rape cases in spite of many amendments.
- He also suggested keeping the name of the accused anonymous and an objective analysis when a case is filed.
- The retired Supreme court judge quoted these reasons based on the cases he came across during his tenure.
- ✓ Consensual sex is later referred to as rape
- ✓ False accusations
- ✓ There are times when a hidden affair is going on, people find out about it, and the woman screams rape to get out of the ignominy of it, according to Justice Srikrishna.
- According to the NCRB data, 28,046 incidents of rape involving 28,153 victims were reported in 2020.
- Some of the sexual crimes against women are:
 - ✓ Sexual Abuse including Molestation and Rape
 - ✓ Human trafficking and forced prostitution
 - ✓ Online Abuse and Cyber Stalking
 - ✓ Harassment at the workplace
 - ✓ Forced Marriage
 - ✓ Marital Rape

Reforming Death Penalty by Supreme Court

- Recently, Supreme Court Bench agreed to comprehensively examine the procedures in death penalty cases in order to ensure that judges who have to choose between life imprisonment and the death penalty have comprehensive sentencing information.
- Previously, the Supreme Court raised concerns about the process of assessing mitigating information in death penalty cases.
- The court is working on an exercise to reform the procedures by which information necessary in a death penalty case is brought before the courts.
- In doing so, the Supreme Court expresses its concern with the manner in which death penalty sentencing is being carried out.
- While the death penalty has been declared constitutional, the way in which it has been carried out has triggered accusations of unfairness and arbitrariness.
- Capital punishment, commonly known as the death penalty, is the execution of an offender sentenced to death after being convicted of a crime of a criminal offence by a court of law.
- When the Supreme Court confirmed the constitutionality of the death penalty in Bachan Singh's case in May 1980, a framework was established for future judges to follow when faced with the choice between life imprisonment and the death penalty.
- The Supreme Court has repeatedly lamented the inconsistency with which the Bachan Singh framework has been applied. The Law Commission of India has highlighted similar concerns in its 262nd Report.

Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022

- The Government of India recently introduced the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 in the Lok Sabha.
- The bill intends to prohibit the financing of any Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)-related activity and to empower to take action against financiers of such activities.

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- The bill proposes to amend the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act of 2005.
- The Original legislation of 2005 was enacted to prohibit unlawful activities with weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
- This Act addresses unlawful activities involving biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, as well as their delivery systems.
- It also includes provisions for integrated legal measures to restrict the export of materials, equipment, and technologies related to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, as well as to prevent their transfer to non-state actors or terrorists.
- Need for Amendment: The present Weapons of Mass Destruction Act does not address the financial aspects of such delivery systems, and new provisions are required to meet international obligations.

APPOINTMENT

Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first black woman US Supreme Court judge

- The Senate announced Ketanji Brown Jackson as the Supreme Court Judge, making her the 116th and first Black woman to serve on the nation's highest court.
- Jackson was nominated by President Joe Biden in February after Associate Justice Stephen Breyer announced his retirement from the Supreme Court.
- In the 233-year history of the Supreme Court, 108 of the 115 justices have been white men.
- Only five of them have been women, with three of them being black.
- First black woman Vice President Kamala Harris presided over the Senate for the vote.

Iqbal Singh Lalpura re-appointed as Chairperson of National Commission for Minorities

- Iqbal Singh Lalpura re-appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities.
- He was first appointed as Chairman in September 2021, However he resigned from the post in December to contest as the BJP candidate from Ropar assembly constituency, which he lost.
- The National Commission for Minorities was set up by the Government of India under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- Union Government has notified six religious communities as minority communities. These are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians and Jains.

Harsh V Shringla appointed as India's G20 Chief Coordinator

- India's incumbent Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla has been appointed as the Chief G20 Coordinator of India.
- Mr. Shringla will assume the new role from May 01, 2022 till December 2023.
- G20 chief coordinator is a secretary-level post.
- Meanwhile, India will assume the Presidency of G20 after the 2022 Summit in Indonesia in November and will host the 2023 G20 Summit.

Dr. S Raju takes charge as Director General of Geological Survey of India

- Dr. S Raju has taken over as the Director General of Geological Survey of India (GSI) with effect from April 01, 2022.
- He succeeds Shri R. S. Garkhal who superannuated on March 31, 2022.
- Prior to this, Dr. Raju was holding the post of Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ.
- GSI is a scientific agency of Government of India. It was founded in 1851. It's Headquarter is in Kolkata.

Dr Manoj Soni appointed as Chairman of UPSC

- Academician and former Vice Chancellor, Dr Manoj Soni has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission with effect from April 05, 2022.
- He succeeds Pradip Kumar Joshi.
- Dr Soni will have a tenure of upto June 27, 2023
- UPSC currently has 6 Members, including one Chairman.

Shehbaz Sharif elected as new Prime Minister of Pakistan

- Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as the new Prime Minister of the Pakistan.
- The 70-year old Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Chief will succeed Imran Khan, who has been removed by a no-trust vote recently in the National Assembly.
- Shehbaz Sharif is the brother of former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Vikas Kumar appointed as third Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation

- Vikas Kumar has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.
- He succeeds Mangu Singh, whose tenure ended on March 31, 2022.
- Kumar is the third managing director of the DMRC after E Sreedharan and Mangu Singh.
- He will hold the post for a term of five years.

Viktor Orban has won election for the Prime Minister of Hungary

- Viktor Orban has won the election for the fourth consecutive term as Prime Minister of Hungary.
- Fidesz party is the name of his party. The opposition was led by Péter Márki-Zay.
- In March 2022, Katalin Novak was elected as Hungary's first female President.
- Hungary is a landlocked Central European country.
- Its capital is Budapest. Its currency is Forint (HUF).

Government appoints Vinay Mohan Kwatra as new foreign secretary

- The Government of India has appointed IFS Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the new Foreign Secretary of India.
- Mr Kwatra is currently serving as India's envoy to Nepal, from March 2020.
- He will replace current foreign secretary, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will superannuate on April 30, 2022.

UNHRC appoints Tuvalu negotiator Dr Ian Fry as first climate change expert

- The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has appointed Dr Ian Fry as the world's first independent expert for human rights and climate change.
- Dr Fry has been appointed for a period of three years.
- He holds dual citizenship of Tuvalu and Australia.
- The position of Special Rapporteur for human rights and climate change was created by UNHRC in October 2021.
- The new independent expert will have the mandate to "study and identify how the adverse effects of climate change, including sudden and slow onset disasters, affect the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and make recommendations on how to address and prevent these adverse effects"

Lt Gen Manoj Pande named as India's next Chief of Army Staff

- Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff.
- He will take over from General Manoj Naravane.
- Lt Gen Manoj Pande is the first-ever officer from the Corps of Engineers to be appointed as Army Chief.
- He has served as chief engineer in the UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea and commander in chief Andaman and Nicobar Command.

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Vijay Sampla appointed as National Commission for Scheduled Castes chairperson

- Union minister Vijay Sampla has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for a second time.
- The official order for his appointment was issued by President Ram Nath Kovind in April 2022.
- Sampla, a prominent Dalit face of Punjab, began his political career in 1998 as the Sarpanch of Sofipind village in Jalandhar Cantonment.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Autism Awareness Day celebrated on 02 April

- Every year on April 2nd, World Autism Awareness Day is commemorated.
- It is observed to generate awareness among the public about people living with autism.
- The theme of World Autism Awareness Day 2022 is 'Inclusion in the Workplace'.
- The UN General Assembly declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day in 2007. The first World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated in 2008.
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a broad term used to describe a group of neurodevelopmental disorders.

Hindu New Year (Ugadi,Gudi Padwa,Cheti Chand) begins from April 2

- The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has greeted the people of the nation on the eve of 'Ugadi, Gudi Padava, Chaitra Sukladi and Cheti Chand'.
- Ugadi is celebrated in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in India.
- Maharashtrians celebrate Gudi Padwa.
- Sindhi, Kashmiri, and Manipuri celebrate Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba.

United Nations International Day of Conscience observed on 05 April

- The United Nations General Assembly has designated 5 April to be observed as an International Day of Conscience every year.
- The Theme of 2022: Promoting the Culture of Peace with Love and Conscience.
- The resolution was adopted on 31 July 2019 by the UN General Assembly.
- The year 2022 marks the third edition of the celebrations.
- This day aims to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace celebrated on 6 April

- The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is celebrated on 6 April every year.
- The theme for 2022 is, "Securing a Sustainable and Peaceful Future for All: The Contribution of Sport"
- The day recognizes the positive role of sport and physical activity in people's lives.
- The UN decided to mark the day on 6 April as on this day in 1896, the first ever modern Olympics were held.

World Health Day Celebrated every year on 07 April

- The World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7 since 1950 to commemorate the establishment of World Health Organisation (WHO) on 7 April 1948.
- The Theme of 2022 World Health Day is 'Our Planet, Our Health.'
- World Health Day is celebrated as global health awareness day to draw worldwide attention to a specific subject of major importance to global health.

Jallianwala Bagh massacre 103rd anniversary observed on 13 April 2022

- 103rd anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre was observed on 13 April 2022.
- Hundreds of people protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Acts, which granted the colonial administration repressive powers, were gunned down by British forces without any provocation, in 1919.
- It was one of the most brutal instances India witnessed under British rule

38th Siachen Day Observed on 13 April 2022

- The 38th Siachen Day was celebrated by Siachen Warriors Brigade of Fire & Fury Corps on April 13, 2022 with tremendous zeal and enthusiasm.
- Every year this day is observed to pay solemn tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives to capture the icy heights of Siachen 38 years ago.
- The day commemorates the courage and fortitude displayed by Indian Army troops in securing the highest and coldest battlefield in the world.
- On 13 April 1984, the Indian Army launched 'Operation MEGHDOOT' to secure Bilafond La and other passes on the Salto Ridge, from Pakistani aggression.

Mahavir Jayanti Celebrated on 14 April

- Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated to mark the birthday of the spiritual leader of Jainism, Lord Mahavir.
- This year, it falls today April 14.
- Lord Mahavir is said to be born on the 13th day of the Chaitra month of the Hindu calendar in 599 BC.
- His birthplace is Kundalagrama, Bihar.
- He is also considered the founder of Jainism and was the 24th and last Tirthankar of the faith.

Festivals celebrated on 14 April: Baisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu

- Festivals Baisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi, and Puthandu-Pirappu are being observed on 14 April 2022.
- These are the first harvest festivals of the year celebrated in the eastern, northern, and southern parts of the country.
- Baisakhi is celebrated in Punjab and Haryana.
- Vishu is celebrated in Kerala and parts of Karnataka

Ambedkar Jayanti observed on 14 April

- Ambedkar Jayanti (also known as Bhim Jayanti) is an annual festival observed on 14 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.
- The Day has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India since 2015.
- In 2021, we are marking the 130th birth anniversary of Babasaheb, who was born on 14 April 1891..
- Dr. Ambedkar is known as the Father (chief architect) of the Indian Constitution.
- He was the first Law and Justice Minister of the country after the independence.
- Dr. Bhim has been bestowed with the country's highest civilian honor, Bharat Ratna in 1990 posthumously.

World Heritage Day Observed on 18 April

- World Heritage Day, also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites, is observed on April 18.
- The day was first celebrated by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1983.
- The aim is to promote awareness about the cultural heritage and diversity on the planet.
- The theme for World Heritage Day 2022 is "Heritage and Climate".

UN Chinese Language Day observed on 20 April

- The UN Chinese Language Day is observed every year on or around April 20.
- The contribution of Chinese literature, poetry and language to world culture is highlighted on this day.
- The first UN Chinese Language Day was held on November 12, 2010.
- In 2011, the date was moved to April 20.
- The United Nations has 6 official languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

National Civil Services Day celebrated on 21 April

- In India, the 'Civil Services Day' is celebrated on April 21 every year as a thanks giving day to all the Civil Servants for their service to the society and also for Civil Servants to 'rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen and renew their commitments to public service'.
- The day April 21 has been chosen to commemorate the day when the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi.
- In his address, he called Civil Servants, the 'Steel Frame of India'.

World Creativity and Innovation Day celebrated on 21 April

- The World Creativity and Innovation Day is celebrated on April 21 every year.
- The Theme in 2022: Collaboration
- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of creativity and innovation in problem solving and encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking at the individual and group levels.
- The United Nations recognised the day in April 2017.
- The first UN World Creativity and Innovation Day was celebrated on April 21, 2018.
- The World Creativity and Innovation Week is observed from April 15-21.

International Mother Earth Day celebrated on 22 April

- Every year, April 22 is celebrated as International Mother Earth Day.
- The theme for the year 2022 is 'Invest in our Planet.'
- The day aims to spread awareness about issues, including pollution, deforestation, and global warming.
- The day was founded in the 1970s by Senator Gaylord Nelson to promote ecology and raise awareness of the concerns surrounding the earth.

English Language Day Observed on 23 April

- English Language day is observed, annually, on April 23.
- The date happens to be the birth and death anniversary of well-known writer William Shakespeare.
- English Language Day is the result of a 2010 initiative by the Department of Global Communications.
- It is celebrated internationally as the UN Observance Day to propagate harmonious communication.

National Panchayati Raj Day Celebrated on 24 April

- National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 24 April annually.
- This annual celebration is done in order to commemorate the historic day on which the Constitution Act (73rd Amendment) was passed in 1992.
- However, it came into existence a year later on April 24, 1993.
- Then PM Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2010.

World Immunization Week observed from 24-30 April

- WHO's World Immunization Week is observed from 24-30 April.

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- The theme for 2022 is Long Life for All.
- It aims to highlight the collective action needed and to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.
- WHO works with countries across the globe to raise awareness of the value of vaccines and immunization.
- The first vaccine was developed for smallpox in 1796

World Malaria Day observed on 25 April

- Every year, World Malaria Day is observed on April 25 to create a global awareness of malaria.
- The theme for 2022 is ‘Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives.
- This day has been observed by the African government since 2001 but was first marked in 2008.
- The 60th session of the World Health Assembly converted Africa Malaria Day to World Malaria Day.

World Intellectual Property Day observed on 26 April

- World Intellectual Property Day is observed on 26 April.
- The theme for 2022 focuses on IP and Youth innovating for a Better Future.
- The event was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000.
- April 26th was chosen as the day as it coincides with the date when the convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization came into effect in 1970.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work observed on 28 April

- World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed on 28 April every year.
- The theme for 2022 is “Act together to build a positive health and safety culture”.
- The day promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.
- It also focuses on enhancing social dialogue towards a culture of safety and health.

International Dance Day observed on 29 April

- International Dance Day is observed on April 29 every year to celebrate different dance forms.
- The Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute started celebrating April 29 as International Dance Day from 1982.
- The day also marks the birthday of the creator of the modern ballet dance form, Jean Georges Noverre.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ecuador becomes world’s first country to give legal rights to wild animals

- The South American country, Ecuador has become the first country to recognise the legal rights of individual wild animals.
- The ruling comes soon after the Ecuador recently also became the first country in the world to recognise nature as a legal entity.
- The apex court of Ecuador has stated that wild animals have the right “not to be hunted, fished, captured, collected, extracted, kept, retained, trafficked, marketed or exchanged” and the right to the “free development of their animal behaviour, which includes the guarantee of not being domesticated and not forced to assimilate human characteristics or appearances.”
- It is worth noting that owning wild animals in Ecuador is illegal.

President Kovind arrives in Netherlands for 3-day visit

- President Ram Nath Kovind on 4 April 2022, arrived in Amsterdam, Netherlands on the final leg of his two-nation visit.

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- It is the first presidential visit to the Netherlands after 34 years.
- He arrived here from Turkmenistan where he held talks with his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov.
- He is the first Indian President to visit independent Turkmenistan.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was on a two day visit to India

- The Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov had arrived in India after concluding a two-day visit to China.
- Russian foreign minister held talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.
- Russian foreign minister offered steep discounts on the direct sale of oil and both sides also discussed the Rupee-rouble trade arrangement for bilateral trade.
- Russian Foreign Minister also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This is the highest-level visit by a Russian official to India after the launch of military operations in Ukraine.
- US Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss are also on visit to India.

China successfully launches new satellite Gaofen-3 03 for Earth Observation

- China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-3 03 from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on board a Long March-4C rocket.
- The new satellite will become part of its land-sea radar satellite constellation by forming a network with the orbiting Gaofen-3 and Gaofen-3 02 satellites.
- They will then capture reliable, stable synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images, to help Beijing safeguard its maritime rights and interests.
- The Earth Observation (EO) satellites produce a large number of SAR images every day, which are characterised by all-weather operation, high spatial resolution, among other things.

India gets elected to 4 United Nations ECOSOC bodies

- India has been elected to four United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) bodies.
- The bodies include the Commission for Social Development, Committee on NGOs, Commission on Science & Technology for Development, and Committee for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.
- The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.

US intelligence satellite launched from California

- A classified satellite for the US National Reconnaissance Office was launched into space from California on 17 April 2022.
- The NROL-85 satellite lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base aboard a two-stage SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- It was the first mission by the NRO to reuse a SpaceX rocket booster.
- The NRO is the government agency in charge of developing US satellites.

NATIONAL NEWS

Mumbai recognized as 'Tree City of the World' by United Nations

- After Hyderabad, Mumbai has been recognized as the '2021 Tree City of the World' by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN) jointly with Arbor Day Foundation.
- Mumbai received recognition for its commitment for growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery.

- The ‘Tree City of the World’ programme of the United Nations provides a framework and assistance for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry.
- Mumbai is the second city in India to get this recognition.
- Tree Cities of the World programme was introduced at World Forum on Urban Forests in 2018 in Italy.
- The ‘Tree Cities of the World’ programme is an initiative to recognize cities committed to the management of urban forests and trees.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches Mascot ‘Prakriti’ and Green Initiatives for Effective Plastic Waste Management

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Shri Bhupender Yadav launched a mascot and various green initiatives taken by MoEFCC and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- The mascot named ‘Prakriti’, will spread awareness among people about small changes that can be sustainably adopted in our lifestyle for a better environment
- The green initiatives launched will ensure Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.
- The initiative is in line with the vision of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to phase out Single Use Plastics (SUPs) by 2022.

Geological Survey of India identified two geological heritage sites in the Indian Himalayan Region

- Siwalik Fossil Park and Stromatolite bearing Dolomite / Limestone of Buxa Formation have been identified as geological heritage sites in the Indian Himalayan Region.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) declares geo-heritage sites/ national geological monuments for the better protection and maintenance.
- Geological Heritage Sites are the places where geologic features or landscapes have played a significant role in cultural or historical events.
- There are a total 34 Geological Heritage Sites in India.

Nagpur gets India’s first radio channel for visually-impaired ‘Radio Aksh’

- India’s first-ever internet radio channel for the visually impaired people, named ‘Radio Aksh’ has been launched in Nagpur.
- Unlike FM and AM, this radio channel has been launched on Internet Radio technology, which has no geographical limits. All the contents are pre-recorded.
- This digital platform will enable access to vast bank of information from anywhere, to the visually impaired through their digital devices.
- This concept of internet radio has been initiated by the Blind Relief Association Nagpur and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham).

Palli becomes India’s first ‘carbon neutral panchayat’

- Palli in Jammu and Kashmir’s border district of Samba has become the country’s first ‘carbon neutral panchayat’.
- PM Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation a 500 KV solar plant, in April 2022.
- In all 1,500 solar panels put up in a total area of 6,408 square metres will provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat under the central government’s ‘Gram Urja Swaraj’ programme.

NV Ramana, the Chief Justice, launches a software named FASTER

- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana unveiled the ‘Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records’ (FASTER).
- It is a digital platform that allows the supreme court to send interim orders, stay orders, and bail orders to the appropriate authorities via a secure electronic channel.
- The online introduction of the FASTER programme was attended by CJI Ramana, Justices AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud, and Hemant Gupta, as well as Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts.

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- The initiative 'FASTER' was initiated when a bench led by CJI Ramana took suo motu notice of delays in convicts' release even after they had been granted bail, citing reasons such as non-receipt or non-verification of legal orders.

BRO to construct world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass connecting Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will construct the world's highest tunnel connecting Himachal Pradesh to Zaskar Valley in Ladakh.
- The tunnel will be constructed by BRO at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet.
- BRO will execute this ambitious project under 'Project Yojak'. This tunnel is proposed to be completed by 2025.

STATE NEWS

Chandrapur in Maharashtra recorded as third hottest place in the world

- The first forest fire was recorded in Chandrapur district on 29 March 2022.
- The fire was recorded in the area of Irai dam.
- Irai Dam is located on Irai River near Chandrapur and Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.
- Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is the oldest and largest national park of Maharashtra.

Chhindwara's oranges get new identity, named Satpuda

- Oranges grown in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district will now have a distinct identity of their own from the ones produced in Nagpur.
- They will be called Satpuda orange under the "one district one produce" scheme of the government.
- The authorities have also created a QR code for the fruit, which will reveal all the information about the variety, the moment someone scans the code.

Delhi's Education Song 'Irada Kar Liya Hai Humne' released

- The Delhi government on 19 April 2022 launched Delhi's Education Song "Irada Kar Liya Hai Humne".
- The song's lyrics have been written by Alok Srivastava and it has been sung by famous singers, Shan and Sneha Shankar.
- With this song, Delhi becomes the first state in the world to have a song that clearly defines its aspirations and dedication toward the cause of education for all.

SPORTS

Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2022 begins in Bhopal

- The 12th edition of the prestigious Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2022 kicked-off in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on April 06, 2022.
- The 12-day tournament will see participation of 28 teams. vie for top honours.
- The previous edition of the tournament was won by Hockey Punjab after they beat Uttar Pradesh Hockey.

Australian state of Victoria will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games

- The 2026 Commonwealth Games will be organized in the Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland towns of Victoria State.

- The opening ceremony will be held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
- 16 Sports including aquatics, cycling and Twenty20 cricket will be played in the tournament.
- The Queensland state of Australia hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2018.
- Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the nodal agency for the control and functioning of the Commonwealth Games.

ICC Women's World Cup: Australia lifts title for the seventh time

- Australia was crowned the winner of the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, on 3 April 2022.
- This was their seventh title.
- Australia defeated England in the final by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- Alyssa Healy became the first batter in the history of the game to hit a hundred in the semi-final and the final of World Cup.

Netherlands wins 2022 FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup title

- Netherland defeated Germany by 3-1 in the finals of the FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup.
- Danique van der Veerdonk of Netherland scored the first goal in seven minutes.
- England defeated India 3-0 in the shoot-out and won the bronze medal.
- Mumtaz from India is the highest scorer in the tournament with eight goals.
- Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup was earlier known as the Women's Hockey Junior World Cup.
- It is organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- The first edition was held in 1989.

Ann Mariya M.T won gold medal in National weightlifting championships

- Ann Mariya M.T from Kerala set a national record by lifting a total 231kg.
- Gurdeep Singh won the gold medal in the men's category by lifting a total 391kg.
- Bhubaneswar hosted National Weightlifting Championships for senior men and women as well as for youth and junior categories.
- It was organized from 19-31 March at the KIIT University campus in Bhubaneswar.
- More than 1300 athletes from 30 states and Union Territories took part in this tournament.

Iga Swiatek clinched Miami Open title

- Poland's Iga Swiatek clinched the Miami Open title by defeating Japan's Naomi Osaka in the final.
- She defeated Naomi Osaka in women's singles by 6-4, 6-0. She has won 17 consecutive matches.
- Iga Swiatek has become the only fourth woman to win the Indian Wells and Miami tournaments back-to-back.
- Iga Swiatek will occupy the top rank.
- Spanish player Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest man to win the Miami Open by defeating Casper Ruud 7-5, 6-4 in the men's singles final.
- Miami Open is a tennis tournament usually held between March and April in Miami Gardens, Florida.
- It is played on the Hard court (outdoors).

Meghalaya to host 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022

- Meghalaya will host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship from April 18th till 25th, 2022 at SAI Indoor Training Centre in Shillong.
- National Table Tennis Championship is one of the biggest sports events hosted by Meghalaya.
- It will be the second time that National Table Tennis Championship will be hosted by any North-eastern state.
- Around 450 players and 200 support staff will participate in this event. 10 players from Meghalaya are expected to participate in this event.

India won its maiden Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles in World Doubles Squash Championships

- Dipika Pallikal teaming up with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa has won mixed doubles and women's double titles in the World Doubles Squash Championships at Glasgow.
- Dipika Pallikal and Saurav Ghosal won the mixed doubles title 11-6, 11-8 by defeating English pair Adrian Waller and Alison Waters.
- Pallikal and Joshna Chinappa won the women's doubles title after defeating Sarah-Jane Perry and Alison Waters of England.

India to host Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023

- India is the host nation for the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 a mixed gender cricket tournament for street-connected children and young people worldwide.
- The Tournament will be organised by Save the Children India (Bal Raksha Bharat) and Street Child United in September 2023.
- The 10-day event will see participation of 22 teams from 16 countries.
- SCCWC 2023 will be the second edition of the tournament.
- The inaugural edition was held in London/Cambridge in 2019, in which eight teams took part and Team India South emerged victorious after beating hosts England.
- SCCWC is a global platform that gives street children an opportunity to connect, share their experiences and present their demand of human rights to the world.

Indian Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa wins Reykjavik Open chess tournament in Iceland

- Young Indian Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa has won the tournament with 7.5 points from nine rounds.
- He defeated compatriot GM D Gukesh in the final round of the Reykjavik Open chess tournament.
- He had recently defeated world No.1 player Magnus Carlsen in an online tournament.
- He is the fifth-youngest person to get the title of Grandmaster (GM).
- Abhimanyu Mishra finished the tournament on the fifth spot with seven points. GM B Adibhan scored 5.5 points and settled on 34th place.

Senior Asian Wrestling Championship begins in Mongolia

- The senior Asian Wrestling Championship began on 19 April 2022 in Mongolia.
- 30 Indian wrestlers, including Olympic medallists Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia, will participate in the event.
- A total of 20 wrestlers from the men's team across the Freestyle and GrecoRoman categories and 10 from the women's team are participating in the event.
- Indian women wrestlers Anshu Malik and Radhika won silver.

PV Sindhu wins bronze medal at Asia Badminton Championships

- In Asia Badminton Championships, PV Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal after losing to Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila.
- PV Sindhu is a two-time Olympic medallist and former world champion.
- This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament, she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.

Sartaj Singh Tiwana wins gold medal in 50-m rifle event

- Sartaj Singh Tiwana defeated Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar to win a gold medal in the finals of the 50-metre rifle three positions event at the Khelo India University Games in Bengaluru.
- He represented Lovely Professional University.
- In the men's 10-meter pistol final Varun Tomar from CCS Meerut won a gold medal, and Surinder Singh from Punjabi University won silver.

Beijing releases book titled "Missile Life"

- On the occasion of the seventh China Aerospace Day, Beijing released a book titled "Missile Life", in April 2022.
- It sheds light on the lives of 12 Chinese missile weapon model directors and chief designers for the first time.
- It was released by the Second Academy of China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) on 24 April 2022.

Russia stripped of 2023 world ice hockey championship

- The 2023 ice hockey world championship will be moved from Russia.
- This was informed by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).
- The federation had already stripped Russia of the junior world championship for the same reason.
- The tournament was awarded to Russia in 2018 and was due to be held from May 5-21, 2023 in Saint Petersburg.

AWARDS

Mirabai Chanu wins 2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award

- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year (BBC ISWOTY) award for 2022.
- Young Indian opening cricketer Shafali Verma received the 'BBC Emerging Player' award.
- Former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement' award.
- The BBC ISWOTY is an initiative by the BBC India to celebrate and honour sportswomen from India who have excelled in their respective fields. The first edition of the award took place in 2020, and P. V. Sindhu was the winner.

Scroll.in Journalist Aarefa Johari wins Chameli Devi Jain Award 2021

- Journalist Aarefa Johari, who works for 'Scroll.in' in Mumbai, has been named as the winner of the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Mediaperson 2021.
- The Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Women Mediaperson is an Indian journalism award named after Chameli Devi Jain, an Indian independence activist who became the first Jain woman to go to prison during India's independence struggle.
- The award was instituted in 1980 by The Media Foundation to honour women in the field of journalism.
- The award is India's longest running media award for women.

Prof Ramdarash Mishra will get Saraswati Samman 2021.

- He will be given the award for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'.
- He is known for his work in Hindi Literature. Last year, Marathi writer Dr Sharankumar Limbale won Saraswati Samman 2020.
- Saraswati Samman was first won by Harivansh Rai Bachchan.
- Saraswati Samman:
- It was started in 1991. It is sponsored by K. K. Birla Foundation.
- It is given annually for prose or poetry in any one of 22 languages in Schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution.
- It includes a plaque, a citation, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. It is given for work published within last 10 years.

2022 Grammy Awards held on 3 April 2022

- The 2022 Grammy Awards took place on 3 April 2022 at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.
- 'We Are' by Jon Batiste won Album of the Year.

- 'I Still Have Faith in You' by ABBA won Record of the Year.
- 'Sour' by Olivia Rodrigo won Best Pop Vocal Album.
- 'Starting Over' by Chris Stapleton won Best Country Album.
- 'Leave the Door Open' by Silk Sonic won Song of the Year.

Falguni Nayar selected as ‘EY Entrepreneur of the Year’ for 2021

- She will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award on June 9.
- In 2019, She had won the EY Entrepreneur of The Year Award in the Start-up category.
- Falguni Nayar is the founder & CEO of Nykaa, a Cosmetics & beauty products e-commerce Company.
- A.M. Naik won the Lifetime Achievement Award. He is Group Chairman of Larsen & Toubro.

‘Tomb of Sand’ becomes first Hindi novel to get shortlisted for International Booker Prize

- In the history of International Booker Prize, a novel ‘Tomb of Sand’, authored by Geetanjali Shree, has become the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the prestigious literary prize.
- The novel has been translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.
- The book Tomb of Sand will compete with five other novels from around the world.
- The literary prize comes with cash award of 50,000 pounds, which is split equally between the author and translator.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu confers Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowships and Awards

- The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Sangeet Natak Awards for the year 2018 to 43 eminent artists ((4 Fellows and 40 awardees)).
- Shri Naidu also presented Fellowships and National Awards of Lalit Kala Akademi for the year 2021 to 23 people (3 Fellows and 20 National Awards).
- The awards were presented during the 62nd National Exhibition of Art, organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi and inaugurated by Minister of Culture, Shri G. Kishan Reddy on April 09, 2022 in New Delhi.

PM Modi honoured with inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been named for the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award, instituted in the honour and memory of Legendary singer Late Lata Mangeshkar, who passed away in February 2022 following multiple organ failure.
- PM Modi has been chosen for the inaugural award for his selfless service to the nation and society.
- PM will receive the award on April 24, 2022 at the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony, which marks the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar, father of Lata Ji.
- From this year, the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar will be given every year to only one individual who has made path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to the nation, its people and society.

Tim Southee wins Sir Richard Hadlee Medal at New Zealand Cricket Awards 2022

- New Zealand pace bowler Tim Southee has been awarded the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal at the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) Awards on April 14, 2022.
- This is Southee’s first Sir Richard Hadlee Medal in his 14-year-long career.
- He has been awarded for his consistency throughout the 2021-22 season.
- Sir Richard Hadlee medal is the highest cricketing honour of New Zealand (Black Cap).

Neeraj Chopra wins ‘Sportstar of the Year (Male) award

- Neeraj Chopra claimed the ‘Sportstar of the Year (Male)’ award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards in March 2022.

“CURRENT AFFAIR”

- Mirabai Chanu, who claimed the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the ‘Sportstar of the Year (Female)’ award.
- Lovlina Borgohain won Sportswoman of the Year (Individual Sports), and Avani Lekhara won Parathlete of the Year (Female).

SCHEMES

Giriraj Singh launches 90-day campaign ‘Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak’

- Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh launched ‘Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak’.
- It is a 90-day campaign with a mission to saturate 75 districts across 28 states/UTs with beneficiary schemes of 9 central ministries.
- The goal of the campaign is to take up 17 select schemes with direct assistance to beneficiaries in saturation mode.

Relaxation in Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme

- Various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme have been relaxed by the commerce ministry so as to facilitate the ease of doing business and reduce compliance requirements.
- Under this scheme, the capital goods imports are allowed duty-free, subject to export laws.
- Under the scheme, the authorization holder or the exporter has to export the finished goods that are worth six times the actual duty that is saved in value terms over a period of six years.
- The EPCG scheme’s objective is to facilitate the import of capital goods so as to produce quality goods and services and enhance the manufacturing competitiveness of the country.

Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

- Rs.5911 crores have been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for the continuation of the ‘Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan’ (RGSA).
- The scheme has been extended for a period of four years from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026 with the aim of developing the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) governance capabilities.
- The scheme will also be focusing on empowering the elected representatives of Panchayati raj institutions for various leadership roles.

‘SVANidhi se Samridhhi’ program

- The ‘SVANidhi se Samridhhi’ program has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in additional 126 cities across 14 States and UTs of India.
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges in 2020-21, this program was successful in providing social security benefits to lakhs of street vendors and their families across the country thus protecting them from the livelihoods risks.
- On 4th January 2021, Phase 1 of the ‘SVANidhi se Samridhhi’, an additional program under the PM SVANidhi was launched in 125 cities across India.

RANKING AND INDEX

Global Wind Energy Council released Global Wind Report 2022

- According to the Global Wind Report 2022, 93.6 gigawatts of wind capacity have been installed in 2021, less than the 95.3 GW installed in 2020.

- Total capacity has increased to 837 GW.
- In 2021, 21.1 GW has been installed in the offshore wind segment while 72.5 GW has been installed in the onshore wind segment.
- The wind installation capacity has decreased in China and United States.
- According to this report, wind installation capacity should be quadrupled in a decade to meet the 2050 goals.
- India added 1.45 GW of wind capacity in 2021, an increase of 30% as compared to last year.
- India's wind capacity installation rate had slowed down between April to mid-June 2021.
- The National Institute of Wind Energy has assessed more than 300 GW onshore wind potential and 700 GW offshore wind potential.
- As per this report, India can further add wind capacity by repowering older KW-rated wind turbines through a proper repowering policy.

Cyrus Poonawalla becomes richest healthcare billionaire in the world

- Cyrus Poonawalla, the founder of Serum Institute of India, is the richest billionaire in the healthcare sector in 2022, according to Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022.
- He has a net worth of \$26 billion.
- The second richest healthcare billionaire globally is Thomas Frist Jr and family.
- The third and fourth on the list are from China — Li Xiting and Xu Hang of Mindray.

Elon Musk tops Forbes Billionaires 2022 list

- The Forbes Billionaires 2022 list has been released.
- Elon Musk is leading with a net worth of \$219 bn, followed by Amazon Chief Jeff Bezos at \$171 bn.
- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 10th richest on the list and is the only Indian to make it to top 10.
- Mukesh Ambani, with a net worth of \$100.1 billion, is followed by Gautam Adani with a net worth of \$90 billion.

Chhattisgarh has lowest unemployment rate in India.

- As per the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Chhattisgarh had an unemployment rate of 0.6% in March 2022.
- In March 2022, India's overall unemployment was 7.6 per cent. The unemployment rate in the country was 8.10 percent in February.
- According to data, Haryana has the highest unemployment rate (26.7 percent), followed by Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Chhattisgarh government has launched various schemes like Suraji Gaon Yojana, Narva-Garva-Ghurva-Bari programme, Godhan Nyay Yojana, etc. for strengthening rural economy.
- New employment opportunities have been created in rural areas with the effective implementation of these schemes.
- Chhattisgarh government has also launched 'Chhattisgarh Employment Mission' to create 15 lakh jobs in the next five years.

World Bank Report States Extreme Poverty in India Decline by 12.3% between 2011- 2019

- The extreme poverty rate in India fell from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019 as per World Bank Policy Research Working Paper.
- This represents a decline of 12.3 percentage points in extreme poverty count between 2011 to 2019 in the country.
- The decline in rural areas was much higher than in urban areas.
- While the reduction in rural poverty dropped by 14.7 percentage points, the poverty in urban areas dropped by 7.9 percentage points.
- The paper titled 'Poverty has Declined over the last decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought' was jointly authored by economists Sutirtha Sinha Roy and Roy van der Weide.

India is projected to grow at 8% in this fiscal by World Bank

- World Bank has recently released its ‘South Asia Economic Focus Reshaping Norms: A New Way Forward’ report.
- According to this report, the South Asia region will grow at 6.6 percent in 2022 and by 6.3 percent in 2023.
- The World Bank has lowered its forecast of India’s GDP growth for FY 23 from 8.7% to 8%.
- Russia’s war on Ukraine has impacted commodity prices and increased supply and financial sector bottlenecks.
- Due to the labour market's incomplete recovery and inflationary pressures, household consumption in India is restricted.
- The Green tax will be a new source of government revenue in the South Asian region.
- The current account deficit will widen due to the merchandise trade deficit increase and the rise of commodity prices.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the third busiest airport in the world

- A report based on data provided by the United Kingdom-based data provider, Official Airline Guide (OAG), has been prepared.
- This organisation keeps track of worldwide travel statistics and analyses a variety of factors such as the busiest airports, the busiest flight routes, and other travel-related information.
- According to the report, Delhi airport has climbed six points to third place, surpassing China's Guangzhou airport.
- However, Atlanta International Airport in the United States remains at the top of the list, followed by Dubai International Airport.
- According to another OAG report, Indigo Airlines of India is one of the world's largest airlines for the month of March and ranked sixth among the top ten largest airlines.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Dharmendra Pradhan releases a book “Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released a book titled “Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak”.
- The book has been written by Prof. Alok Chakrawal, Vice Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.
- This book brings forward the struggle of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the contribution of forest dwellers in the freedom movement

Author Devika Rangachari pens book on Lakshmibai titled ‘Queen of Fire’

- A book titled ‘Queen of Fire’ has been authored by award-winning children’s writer and historian Devika Rangachari.
- The novel is all about the brave queen and warrior Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, focusing on her journey as a queen, soldier, and statesman.
- The book is meant for readers aged 13-17.
- It has been published by Penguin Random House India in April 2021.

A Book "Crunch Time: Narendra Modi’s National Security Crises" released

- A new book authored by Dr Sreeram Chaulia titled "Crunch Time: Narendra Modi’s National Security Crises" was released on March 31 by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi.
- He is the Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs of OP Jindal Global University.

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- The book emphasises the decision taken during security threats posed by India’s external adversaries

Book titled “Not Just a Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI” by former CAG Vinod Rai

- Former CAG Vinod Rai has come out with a new book titled “NOT JUST A NIGHTWATCHMAN: My Innings in the BCCI” has been released recently.
- In the book Rai has narrated his stint of 33 months at BCCI, when he was appointment as the head of the Supreme Court-mandated Committee of Administrators (CoA) in the BCCI.
- The book has been published by Rupa Publications India.
- He was appointed as the 11th Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in 2008.
- He was also appointed the first chairman of the newly created Banks Board Bureau (BBB) during 2016-2018.
- Other books written by him includes: Not Just an Accountant: The Diary of the Nation’s Conscience Keeper and Rethinking Good Governance: Holding to Account India’s Public Institutions.

Author Prem Rawat has launched his book ‘Hear Yourself’.

- ‘Hear Yourself’ is a New York Times bestseller book.
- It is already available in 58 countries and five languages.
- Now, the book has been launched for the Indian subcontinent.
- As per the author, the book is to help people understand their own potential.
- The book will help people find peace in a noisy world. The book is to help people develop better self-understanding.

Rajesh Talwar pens book titled ‘The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution’

- Noted lawyer and writer Rajesh Talwar has come out with a new children’s book titled “The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution”.
- This book seeks to inform children about the life story of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the person who came to write the Constitution of India.

Devendra Fadnavis releases book on Amit Shah

- Devendra Fadnavis released a Marathi book on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in April 2022.
- It is titled 'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal'.
- It documents the life and journey of Shah and his contribution to building the BJP.
- The book, originally written by Dr Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi, has been translated into Marathi by Dr Jyostna Kolhatkar.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

IMF cuts India’s GDP growth forecast for FY23 to 8.2%

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India in FY23 to 8.2 percent in its latest World Economic Outlook report, released on April 19, 2022.
- Earlier in January report, this was estimated at 9 percent.
- IMF has also cut India’s FY24 GDP growth forecast to 6.9 percent. Earlier this was 7.1 percent.
- In the case of global economy, IMF has cut the growth forecast for calendar year 2022 to 3.6 percent from 4.4 percent.

WTO cuts global trade growth forecast to 3% in 2022

- The World Trade Organisation has revised down its projection for global trade growth (in volume) for 2022 to 3 percent.
- Earlier in October 2021, this was estimated at 4.7 percent.

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- The downward revision follows the Russia-Ukraine conflict that has impacted commodity prices, disrupted supplies and intensified geopolitical and economic uncertainty.
- For 2023, this merchandise trade volume growth is projected at 3.4%.

FICCI Projects India’s GDP growth rate for FY23 at 7.4%

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has estimated India’s GDP to grow at 7.4 percent in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23).
- The Ficci’s Economic Outlook Survey was released on April 03, 2022.
- The report has stated that rising prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict is the biggest challenge to the global economic recovery.

SEBI announces Ideathon ‘Manthan’ to promote innovation in securities markets

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched an Ideathon named ‘Manthan’, for supporting new ideas and innovations in the securities market.
- The ideathon was launched by Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.
- Manthan is a six-week long ideathon to create a pool of ideas and innovative solutions revolving around the securities market
- Sebi has organised the initiative in association with BSE, NSE, NSDL, CDSL, KFinTech, CAMS, LinkInTime and MCX.

ADB has projected that India’s GDP will grow by 7.5% and 8% in FY2022 and FY2023, respectively

- In its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022, ADB has projected that the growth rate in South Asia will decline to 7% in 2022.
- ADB has also projected that growth rate in South Asia will increase to 7.4% in 2023.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that Asia’s economies will grow by 5.2% in 2022 and 5.3% in 2023.
- Asian Development Outlook (ADO) is a report of ADB, which is annually published in March/April. It covers most countries in Asia.
- An update to ADO is published in September. Brief supplements to ADO are published in July and December.
- Global Economic Prospects by World Bank Group and World Economic Outlook by International Monetary Fund are two other important economic reports.

DEFENCE

20th India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise ‘VARUNA -2022’ kicks-off in Arabian Sea

- The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian Navy and French Navy named ‘VARUNA’ is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 03, 2022.
- The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as ‘VARUNA’ in 2001.
- Various ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies will be participating in the VARUNA-2022 exercise.

9th edition of India – Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise concluded on 06 April 2022

- The exercise started on 25 March 2022 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.
- During the exercise, Special Forces contingents from India and Kyrgyzstan shared their expertise and best practices.
- KHANJAR is the name of the exercise between Indian and Kyrgyzstan Special Forces.

Space-X launched the first private mission to the space station

- The first all-private mission to the International Space Station (ISS) has taken off.
- A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Crew Dragon capsule carrying four people took off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- Michael Lopez-Alegria, a retired NASA astronaut, is leading the crew.
- The mission is a collaboration between Axiom, SpaceX, and NASA.
- This mission will help in the expansion of commercial space ventures known as the low-Earth orbit economy.
- SpaceX is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transportation services company founded by Elon Musk in 2002.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

4th India and US 2+2 dialogue will be organized in Washington

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the 4th India and US 2+2 dialogue.
- Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin will attend the dialogue from the US side.
- The 2+2 Dialogue gives an opportunity to exchange views related to important regional and global issues.
- Both sides will discuss agendas related to foreign policy, defence, and security.
- This year's 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue will celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations.
- Apart from the US, India also takes part in 2+2 Dialogue with Japan, Russia and Australia.

NMDC Wins One Gold and One Silver Awards at 80th SKOCH Summit 2022

- The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), under Ministry of Steel has won one gold and one silver award at the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards held on April 09, 2022, in New Delhi.
- The theme for the 80th SKOCH Summit was 'State of BFSI & PSUs'.
- NMDC is the largest iron ore producer of India.
- The Gold Award has been won by NMDC in the social responsibility category for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi'
- NMDC won the Silver Award in the digital inclusion category for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation.
- The awards were received by Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance) via video conferencing on behalf of Chairman and Managing Director, Shri Sumit Deb.

20th India-France Joint Staff talks concludes in Paris

- The 20th edition of India and France Joint Staff talks was held in Paris on April 12-13, 2022.
- The focus of the meeting was on new initiatives under the existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism and strengthening ongoing bilateral defence engagements.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Assistant Chief of Integrated Staff and Air Vice Marshal B Manikantan and Head of Bilateral Cooperation South/Staff HQ Brigadier General Eric Peltier.
- The India-France Joint Staff talks forum has been established to enhance defence cooperation between both nations through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels

World’s largest electric cruise ship launched in China

- The largest electric cruise ship, Yangtze River Three Gorges 1, has started its first voyage.
- It is 100 metres long, 16.3 metres wide and has room for 1,300 passengers.
- It can travel around 100 kilometres on a single charge, which will help in saving around 530 metric tons of fuel.
- The ship has been built at a cost of 150 million yuan. It is powered by a massive 7,500-kilowatt-hour marine battery.
- It will be mainly used for sightseeing trips and start its commercial operation from next month.
- This project has been sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the Ministry of Transport.

India and Singapore organise East Asia Summit Workshop

- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Government of Singapore organized a virtual East Asia Summit (EAS) Workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing on 12 April 2022.
- The workshop was attended by 8 EAS member countries and 4 knowledge partners.
- Countries including Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, and Republic of Korea participated.

MISCELLANOUS

India’s agricultural products export value crossed 50 billion dollar mark

- According to data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), agricultural exports have grown by 19.92% during 2021-22.
- India’s agricultural products export reached its highest ever level during FY 2021-22.
- The export of Wheat has increased four-fold from \$568 million in 2020-21 to \$2.12 billion.
- The export of marine products also touched its highest peak at \$7.71 billion.
- For the first time, the export of coffee crossed the \$1 billion mark. Export of Spices reached \$4 billion mark for the second consecutive year.
- Exports have taken place from clusters like Varanasi (fresh vegetables, mangoes), Ananthpur (banana), Nagpur (orange), Lucknow (mango), etc.
- Department of Commerce is promoting agriculture export through its various initiatives.

“UDAN” scheme selected for Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020

- The Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik), the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has been selected for Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category “Innovation (General) – Central”.
- The scheme lay emphasis on Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets.
- The award was launched by the Government of India in 2006 to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/ Organizations of the Central and State Governments.
- The award comes with a trophy, scroll and an incentive of Rs 10 lakhs.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation will receive the award on April 21, 2022, on the occasion of Civil Service Day.

Supreme Court reconstitutes expert committee for Delhi-Dehradun Corridor project

- The Supreme Court has reconstituted the expert committee to monitor the compensatory afforestation and other mitigation measures for the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway project.

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- The independent 12-member expert committee was formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to be headed by Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand.
- The Director-General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change will be the Chairperson of the reconstituted Committee.
- Chandra Prakash Goyal is currently appointed as the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Apart from the new Chairperson, the Supreme Court has also included Anil Prakash Joshi (founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation) and Vijay Dhamsana (environmentalist) as additional members in the committee.



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OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. The famous 'Living Root Bridge' Cultural Landscapes of which state has recently been included on the tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites?
 - (a) Meghalaya
 - (b) Karnataka
 - (c) Sikkim
 - (d) Jammu & Kashmir
2. What is the name of the software launched by the Supreme Court of India and inaugurated by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana to transmit court orders through secured electronic mode, for quicker communication of judicial orders?
 - (a) SWIFT
 - (b) READY
 - (c) FASTER
 - (d) SPORTY
3. Who has been chosen for the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award?
 - (a) Smriti Irani
 - (b) Yogi Adityanath
 - (c) Ram Nath Kovind
 - (d) Narendra Modi
4. Which country will host the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 (SCCWC 2023)?
 - (a) Japan
 - (b) Sri Lanka
 - (c) Mauritius
 - (d) India
5. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Geological Survey of India (GSI)?
 - (a) Gargi Bhattacharya
 - (b) Pralay Mukherjee
 - (c) H Rajaram
 - (d) Dr. S Raju
6. In April 2022, India has been elected on how many United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) bodies?
 - (a) 4
 - (b) 5
 - (c) 3
 - (d) 6
7. Which state will host the second edition of the Khelo India University Games 2021?
 - (a) Odisha
 - (b) Karnataka
 - (c) Uttarakhand
 - (d) Assam
8. As per FICCI, what is the estimated GDP growth rate projection of India in FY23?
 - (a) 7.1%
 - (b) 8.1%
 - (c) 6.5%
 - (d) 7.4%

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9. Which team has won the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup?
- New Zealand
 - West Indies
 - England
 - Australia
10. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister recently inaugurated 13 new districts of the state, taking the overall districts in the state to _____
- 30
 - 22
 - 26
 - 28
11. Who has been appointed as the inaugural Special Rapporteur for human rights and climate change by UNHRC?
- Dr Ian Fry
 - Aisha Akbar
 - Ineza Umuhoza Grace
 - Ryan Bestre
12. Viktor Orban has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country in 2022 General Elections for the 4th straight year?
- Ireland
 - Poland
 - Hungary
 - Finland
13. Who is the author of the book "Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises"?
- Ruby Miranda
 - Jeethayil
 - Satish Chandra
 - Sreeram Chaulia
14. Who has been named as the new Foreign Secretary of India to succeed incumbent Harsh Vardhan Shringla?
- Ram Karan Verma
 - Vinay Mohan Kwatra
 - Sanjay Kumar Panda
 - Hemant H. Kotalwar
15. According to ADB, what is the estimated GDP growth rate of India in FY23?
- 8.5%
 - 7.0%
 - 8.0%
 - 7.5%
16. A book on Rani Lakshmi Bai titled 'Queen of Fire' has been written by which author?
- Rudransh Deep
 - Devika Rangachari
 - Natasha Sharma
 - Soumya Rajendran
17. Which country has been chosen as the sponsor for International Children's Book Day 2022?
- Canada
 - United States
 - Germany
 - Singapore

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18. Which player has won the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year (BBC ISWOTY) award for 2022?
- (a) Mirabai Chanu
 - (b) Aditi Ashok
 - (c) Lovlina Borgohain
 - (d) Avani Lekhara
19. Who is the winner of Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Media person 2021?
- (a) Aarefa Johari
 - (b) Neetu Singh
 - (c) Priyanka Dubey
 - (d) Uma Sudhir
20. World Health Day is observed annually on which day?
- (a) April 04
 - (b) April 05
 - (c) April 06
 - (d) April 07
21. Which city is hosting the 12th edition of the Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2022?
- (a) Gurugram
 - (b) Bhopal
 - (c) Dehradun
 - (d) Guwahati
22. Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi has resigned as the President of which country?
- (a) Libya
 - (b) Yemen
 - (c) Oman
 - (d) Syria
23. China's Wa Yajun has topped the Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World in 2022. Name the Indian entrepreneur who has topped the list?
- (a) Falguni Nayar
 - (b) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw
 - (c) Radha Vembu
 - (d) Vandana Luthra
24. Which bank has launched a digital transformation project called 'SMBHAV'?
- (a) Punjab National Bank
 - (b) State Bank of India
 - (c) Union Bank of India
 - (d) Bank of Baroda
25. Name the recipient of the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2021?
- (a) Govind Mishra
 - (b) Prof Ramdarash Mishra
 - (c) Mahabaleshwar Sail
 - (d) Sharankumar Limbale
26. Gaofen-303 is an Earth Observation satellite, launched by which country recently?
- (a) Israel
 - (b) China
 - (c) Iraq
 - (d) Japan

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27. Name the photographer who has won the 2022 World Press Photo of the Year award?
- Amber Bracken
 - Yasuyoshi Chiba
 - Mads Nissen
 - John Moore
28. The 20th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held at Pakke Tiger Reserve. In which state is the reserve located?
- Haryana
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Tamil Nadu
29. Union Minister of AYUSH inaugurated scientific convention 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness' in New Delhi to mark the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day. Who is the Union Minister of AYUSH?
- Sarbananda Sonowal
 - Prafulla Kumar Mahanta
 - Tarun Gogoi
 - Himanta Biswa Sarma
30. The Government of India has announced to set up how many Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in the country as per Union Budget 2022-23?
- 100
 - 75
 - 50
 - 25
31. Name the Indian duo who paired to win the gold medal in mixed double event of the 2022 WSF World Doubles Squash championship at Glasgow?
- Joshna Chinappa and Harinder Pal Sandhu
 - Dipika Pallikal and Saurav Ghosal
 - Joshna Chinappa and Ramit Tandon
 - Dipika Pallikal and Mahesh Mangaonkar
32. In the women's double event of the 2022 WSF World Doubles Squash championship, which Indian pair won the gold medal for the country?
- Dipika Pallikal and Joshna Chinappa
 - Sunayna Kuruvilla and Dipika Pallikal
 - Akanksha Salunkhe and Sunayna Kuruvilla
 - Joshna Chinappa and Sunayna Kuruvilla
33. Which state has topped the NITI Aayog's State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I, among larger states category?
- Maharashtra
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Gujarat
 - Karnataka
34. Which player has won the Formula One (F1) 2022 Australian Grand Prix?
- Charles Leclerc
 - Max Verstappen
 - Lewis Hamilton
 - Sebastian Vettel

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35. The National Safe Motherhood Day is observed in India, on the birth anniversary of which leader?
- (a) Rani Lakshmi Bai
 - (b) Kasturba Gandhi
 - (c) Annie Besant
 - (d) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
36. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of UPSC?
- (a) Alka Sirohi
 - (b) Manoj Soni
 - (c) Pradeep Kumar Joshi
 - (d) Arvind Saxena
37. Name the Indian writer who has been conferred with the prestigious 2022 O. Henry Prize for short stories?
- (a) Devdutt Pattanaik
 - (b) Ruskin Bond
 - (c) Amar Mitra
 - (d) Amit Majmudar
38. As per the data of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, what was the number of patents filed in 2021-22?
- (a) 42,763
 - (b) 66,440
 - (c) 19796
 - (d) 30,074
39. The ‘2+2’ Ministerial dialogue between India and the United States in 2022, was which edition of the bilateral Dialogue?
- (a) 4th
 - (b) 3rd
 - (c) 5th
 - (d) 6th
40. The Conference Amrit Samagam was organised by which ministry as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations?
- (a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - (b) Ministry of External Affairs
 - (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
 - (d) Ministry of Culture
41. Name the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile, which was flight tested by DRDO recently?
- (a) RUDRA
 - (b) PARAM
 - (c) HELINA
 - (d) PINAKA
42. What is the rank of Mukesh Ambani in the Forbes Billionaires List 2022?
- (a) 10th
 - (b) 11th
 - (c) 9th
 - (d) 12th
43. Government has constituted an advisory committee of experts for Semicon India programme. Who is the head of this committee?
- (a) Minister of State, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - (b) Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India

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- (c) Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
(d) Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
44. Who has been named as the next Chief of Army Staff to replace General MM Naravane?
(a) Lt. General Manoj Pande
(b) Lt. General Yogesh Kumar Joshi
(c) Lt. General Satinder Kumar Saini
(d) Lt. General Rana Pratap Kalita
45. AS per IMF, what is the projected GDP Growth rate of India in FY23?
(a) 8.2%
(b) 9%
(c) 7.5%
(d) 8.9%
46. Who is the author of the book "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution"?
(a) Akhileshwar Pathak
(b) Amita Dhanda
(c) Rajesh Talwar
(d) M. P. Singh
47. Civil Services Day is observed in India on which day?
(a) 19 April
(b) 21 April
(c) 20 April
(d) 18 April
48. Name the Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities who has been re-appointed recently?
(a) Syed Shahezadi
(b) Iqbal Singh Lalpura
(c) Kersi Kaikhushroo Deboo
(d) Rinchen Lhamo
49. In India April 14 is officially declared as public holiday to commemorate the birth anniversary of which leader?
(a) Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar
(b) Subhas Chandra Bose
(c) Jyotirao Govindrao Phule
(d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
50. Who has been appointed as the Chief G20 Coordinator of India for the upcoming 2023 G20 Summit?
(a) Rajiv Gauba
(b) Ajay Kumar Bhalla
(c) Harsh V Shringla
(d) Ajay Kumar

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ANSWER - KEY									
Objective Current Questions									
1	A	11	A	21	B	31	B	41	C
2	C	12	C	22	B	32	A	42	A
3	D	13	D	23	A	33	C	43	D
4	D	14	B	24	C	34	A	44	A
5	D	15	D	25	B	35	B	45	A
6	A	16	B	26	B	36	B	46	C
7	B	17	A	27	A	37	C	47	B
8	D	18	A	28	C	38	B	48	B
9	D	19	A	29	A	39	A	49	A
10	C	20	D	30	B	40	D	50	C

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