

PLUTUS ACADEMY

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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11/04/2022 to 16/04/2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2022

National News

UIDAI TIEUP WITH ISRO FOR TECHNICAL COLLABORATION



- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), MeitY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), ISRO, Hyderabad for technical collaboration.
- NRSC will develop a Bhuvan-Aadhar portal for providing information and locations about the Aadhaar centers across India.
- The portal will provide the facility of complete geographic information, retrieval, analysis, and reporting for Aadhaar centres with a high-resolution backdrop of natural-colour satellite images.
- UIDAI has, so far, issued Aadhaar numbers to more than 132 crore residents and facilitates over 60 crore residents who have updated their Aadhaar..

2. DIPIKA PALLIKAL KARTHIK AND SAURAV GHOSAL WINS FIRST TIME GOLD MEDAL AT WORLD DOUBLES SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS



- The second-seeded Indian duo Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal won the mixed double title at the 2022 WSF World Doubles Squash championship at Glasgow, Scotland.
- The Indian duo thrashed the fourth-seeded pair of Adrian Waller and Alison Waters of England in the mixed doubles finals in straight sets 11-6, 11-8.
- This is the first gold medal for India at the WSF World Doubles Squash championship, which the country had never won before this.
- Meanwhile, England's Declan James and James Willstrop beat Scotland's Greg Lobban and Rory Stewart, 11-10; 11-6, to win the men's doubles final.
- Apart from this, Dipika and Joshna Chinappa paired to win the women's doubles final, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 defeating England's Sarah Jane Perry and Waters.

3. PINAKA MK-I, PINAKA AREA DENIAL MUNITION ROCKET SYSTEMS SUCCESSFULLY TESTED



- The Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Army successfully flight-tested a new version of the Pinaka rocket system at the Pokhran firing ranges.
- These included Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition

(ADM) rocket systems.

- With these trails, the initial phase of technology absorption of EPRS by the industry has successfully been completed and the industry partners are ready for user trials/series production of the rocket system.
- The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by DRDO lab- Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.
- The EPRS is the upgraded version of the Pinaka variant, which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The system has been upgraded with advanced technologies enhancing the range to meet the emerging requirements.
- After establishing the performance efficacy of the enhanced range version of Pinaka, the technology was transferred to the industries viz. Munitions India Limited (MIL) and Economic Explosives Limited Nagpur.

4. INDIA'S FIRST CASE OF XE VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE REPORTED FROM MUMBAI



- The first case of the XE variety of the coronavirus illness (Covid-19) in India was reported in Mumbai.
- The city civic authority Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced the results of its 11th genome sequencing, which identified one sample positive for the XE variant and another for the Kappa variant.
- According to BMC officials, the person who tested positive for the XE strain was a fully vaccinated 50-year-old woman who had no co-morbidities and was asymptomatic.
- She had arrived from South Africa on February 10th with no prior travel experience. She had tested negative for the virus when she arrived.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the new subvariant 'XE', which is a hybrid strain of two Omicron subvariants, could be the most transmissible coronavirus strain ever discovered.
- INSACOG, which sequenced the case's genome, stated that the sample did not indicate the presence of the variation.
- XE is a hybrid or recombinant of Omicron's two sub-variants (BA.1 and BA.2). The BA.2 sub-lineage has been linked to COVID-19 instances in the United States, the United Kingdom, and China.

5. INFOSYS AND ROLLS-ROYCE LAUNCHED 'AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AND DIGITAL INNOVATION CENTRE'



- IT major Infosys and leading industrial tech company Rolls-Royce opened their joint “aerospace engineering and digital innovation centre” in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- This centre has been established to provide high-end R&D services integrated with advanced digital capabilities to Rolls-Royce’s engineering and group business services from India.
- As part of this collaboration, Infosys and Rolls-Royce will combine their aerospace, engineering and digital services capabilities to explore opportunities for driving digital and engineering innovation and associated cost optimisation strategies.
- Infosys and Rolls-Royce’s collaboration has been reinforced through strategic deals, aimed at yielding mutual benefits to both organisations over the next seven years.

6. CABINET GIVES APPROVAL TO EXTENSION OF AIM TILL MARCH NEXT YEAR



- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) until March 2023.
- AIM’s stated goals include developing 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), 101 Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), and sponsoring 200 entrepreneurs through the Atal New India Challenges, according to the statement.
- A total budgeted expenditure of Rs 2,000 crore plus will be incurred in the establishment and support of the beneficiaries.
- According to the finance minister’s proclamation in the 2015 Budget speech, the mission will be run by the NITI Aayog.

- The AIM's goals are to foster an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country through interventions at the school, university, research, MSME, and industry levels.
- The AIM has concentrated on both infrastructural development and institution formation, according to the statement.

7. SOUTH-CENTRAL RAILWAY LAUNCHES 'ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT' INITIATIVE



- The SCR has introduced the “One Station, One Product” campaign at six main stations across its six divisions.
- Arun Kumar Jain, SCR in-charge General Manager, has opened stalls at Secunderabad Station as part of the new initiative.
- In addition to Vijayawada, Guntur, and Aurangabad, stalls have been set up in Kacheguda.
- The new programme was introduced by the government in the General Budget 2022-23 and is currently being tested in Tirupati.
- The Railway stations are ideal for promoting indigenous and local products, and the programme aims to turn them into a sales and promotional centre.
- The stalls will be open for two phases, starting on the 7th of next month and ending on the 7th of the following month.

By Sameer Singhal

National News

1. EMINENT ASSAMESE POET NILAMANI PHOOKAN CONFERRED WITH JNANPITH AWARD 2020



- Assam Chief Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma presented the country's highest literary award, the 56th Jnanpith for the year 2021 to one of the most celebrated poets of Assam, Nilamani Phookan.
- Nilmani Phookan is the third person to win the Jnanpith Award from Assam after Mamoni Roisom Goswami and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya.
- The Award carried a Citation, a shawl, and Rs. 11 lakh.
- The octogenarian was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2002.
- He was selected as an 'Emeritus Fellow' for a period of two years by Cultural Department, Govt. of India in 1998.
- Assam Sahitya Sabha also conferred 'Sahityacharya' honour to him.
- The notable works of Phukan are 'Xurjya Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita' and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'.
- Novelist Damodar Mauzo was chosen for the 57th Jnanpith Award 2022 for his contribution to Indian literature.

2. PREZ RAM NATH KOVIND INAUGURATES ANNUAL 'MADHAVPUR MELA' IN GUJARAT



- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the five-day long Madhavpur Ghed Fair, at Madhavpur Ghed, Porbandar in Gujarat.

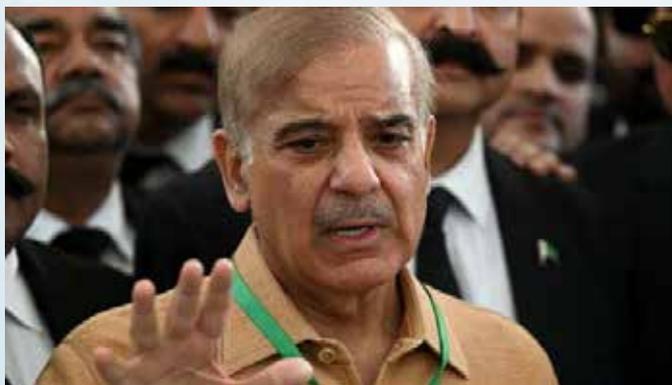
- The Madhavpur Ghed Fair is being organized by the Government of Gujarat in association with the Ministry of Culture since 2018 every year to celebrate the sacred union of Lord Krishna and Rukmini.
- The Madhavpur Fair connects Gujarat with the northeast region in an integral bond.
- The Madhavpur Ghed fair was organised in the village associated with the life of Shri Krishna and near Porbandar, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The folk story of the marriage of Shri Krishna and Rukmini shows how ancient is the cultural unity of India and how deep were the roots of our social harmony.

3. 2 STATES ACTOR SHIV KUMAR SUBRAMANIAM PASSES AWAY



- Actor-screenwriter Shiv Kumar Subramaniam has passed away, he was known for his roles in the serial Mukti Bandhan and Meenakshi Sundareshwar.
- He started his career by writing a screenplay for the 1989 film Parinda which was directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.
- He won the Filmfare Award for Best Story for Hazaron Khawaishein Aisis.
- He has worked in films like 2 States, Hichki, Nail Polish, Rocky Handsome and more.

4. SHEHBAZ SHARIF ELECTED PAKISTAN'S 23RD PRIME MINISTER, REPLACES IMRAN KHAN



- Pakistan's opposition leader, Shehbaz Sharif has been elected unopposed as the 23rd Prime Minister of the country through voting in the National Assembly.
- 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.

- Sharif has secured 174 votes and has been declared as prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In the House of 342, the winning candidate should get the support of at least 172 lawmakers.
- Sharif said a selected prime minister was removed using constitutional and legal means, the first time a PM was removed through a no-confidence motion.

5. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING LAUNCHES BROADCAST SEVA PORTAL FOR BROADCASTERS



- The Broadcast Seva Portal was developed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to improve the convenience of doing business in the broadcast industry.
- This will be an online portal option for broadcasters to quickly file and process applications for various types of licences, permissions, registrations, and other things.
- The digital approach, will make it easier for stakeholders to obtain authorization, apply for registration, track applications, calculate fees, and make payments.
- Private satellite TV channels, teleport operators, MSOs (multiple system operators), and community and private radio channels will all benefit from this.
- The new platform, according to Apurva Chandra, secretary, ministry of I&B, has significant upgrades over the previous version and has been incorporating comments from stakeholders throughout a one-month testing period.

6. MANOJ SONI, THE NEW CHIEF OF UPSC



- Currently a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Dr Manoj Soni has been

appointed the chairman of the country's premier government recruiting agency.

- He has been associated with the Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission, at Mogri in Anand district, since a young age and received diksha (initiation) as a nishkarma karmayogi (selfless worker) on Jan 10, 2020.
- Dr Soni has been appointed to replace the previous UPSC chairman Pradip Kumar Joshi.

7. GUJARAT TOPS NITI AAYOG'S STATE ENERGY AND CLIMATE INDEX ROUND 1



- NITI Aayog has launched the State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I.
- The State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely, (1) DISCOM's Performance (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy (3) Clean Energy Initiatives (4) Energy Efficiency (5) Environmental Sustainability; and (6) New Initiatives.
- **Top Three States among Larger States Category**
- Gujarat
- Kerala
- Punjab
- **Top Three States among Smaller States Category**
- Goa
- Tripura
- Manipur
- Top Three UTs
- Chandigarh
- Delhi
- Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli

8. INDIA CARRIES OUT SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT-TEST OF ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE HELINA IN POKHRAN



- A team of scientists from the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) jointly conducted the successful flight test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' at high-altitude ranges.
- The flight trials were conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), and the missile was fired successfully, engaging a simulated tank target in the Pokhran desert ranges, Rajasthan.
- HELINA is one of the most advanced anti-tank weapons in the world.
- The missile has a maximum range of 7 kilometers. It has been developed by the Defense Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.

By Sameer Singhal

NATIONAL NEWS

1. THE UNION HOME AND COOPERATION MINISTER AMIT SHAH INAUGURATED THE "AMRIT SAMAGAM"



- Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, launched the Amrit Samagam, a summit of the country's tourism and cultural ministers, in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Culture is hosting a two-day conference, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- The goal of this conference is to discuss how far the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has progressed so far, as well as to gather best practices and ideas for methods to be used for the remainder of the celebration, particularly for impending critical initiatives.
- Union Minister for Tourism, Culture, and DONER Shri G. Kishan Reddy launched the Utsav Portal website during the conference, a digital initiative launched by the Ministry of Tourism to showcase all events, festivals, and live darshans across India in order to promote different regions of the country as popular tourist destinations worldwide.

2. HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA NAMED INDIA'S G20 CHIEF COORDINATOR



- Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will take over next month as G20 chief coordinator, the government officially announced.
- The appointment is significant as India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- Shringla will retire on 30th April 2022, handing over charge to foreign secretary-designate V M Kwatra, who is currently India's ambassador to Nepal.
- The G20 sherpa will remain to be Piyush Goyal, the Indian Commerce Minister.

3. ECUADOR BECAME 1ST COUNTRY TO GIVE LEGAL RIGHTS TO WILD ANIMALS



- Ecuador, a South American Country, became the first country in the world to give legal rights to wild animals.
- The highest court in the country has ruled in favour of the case that focused on a woolly monkey named "Estrellita" who was taken from her home to a zoo, where she passed just a week later.
- The court decided to rule in favour of Estrellita and said that her rights had been violated by the

government.

- However, they added that the animal's rights were also violated by the owner when she removed her from her natural habitat at a young age.
- The Court has finally stated that animals are subject to rights protected by the rights of nature.
- Estrellita was just a month old when she was taken away from the wild so that she could become a pet for librarian Ana Beatriz Burbano Proaño.
- Proaño took care of Estrellita for 18 years, however, was seized by authorities in 2019, as owning wild animals is illegal in the South American country.

4. CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD 2021



- Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan have reached the program of Champions of Change Madhya Pradesh 2021 organized by 'Interactive Forum on Indian Economy' (IFIE) at Kushabhau Thackeray auditorium in Bhopal.
- The organization recognizes them for the great work done by individuals and organizations towards promoting the values of courage, community service and inclusive social development.
- Champions of Change is an Indian award, for promoting Gandhian values, (Swachata), community service and social development (in Aspirational district in India)
- Selected by constitutional jury members headed by K.G. Balakrishnan, Former Chief Justice of India and Former Chairman NHRC along with Former Judge of Supreme Court of India.
- names of the awardees:
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Former Governor of UP and Mizoram Dr Aziz Qureshi
- Rajya Sabha MP Syed Zafar Islam
- Indian actress Divyanka Tripathi
- Indian film actor and lyricist Piyush Mishra

5. TOP 10 BUSIEST AIRPORTS IN THE WORLD FOR 2021

PASSENGERS*						
2021	2020	2019	Airport	2021	% change vs 2020	% change vs 2019
1	2	1	ATLANTA GA, US (ATL)	75 704 760	76.4	-31.5
2	4	30	DALLAS/FORT WORTH TX, US (DFW)	62 455 756	58.7	-16.8
3	8	16	DENVER CO, US (DEN)	58 828 552	74.4	-14.8
4	13	6	CHICAGO IL, US (ORD)	54 020 399	75.1	-36.2
5	15	3	LOS ANGELES CA, US (LAX)	48 007 284	66.8	-45.5
6	18	34	CHARLOTTE NC, US (CLT)	43 302 280	59.2	-19.4
7	17	31	ORLANDO FL, US (MCO)	40 351 088	86.7	-20.3
8	1	11	GUANGZHOU, CN (CAN)	40 259 401	-8.0	-45.1
9	3	24	CHENGDU, CN (CTU)	40 117 496	-1.5	-28.2
10	22	30	LAS VEGAS NV, US (LAS)	39 754 366	78.6	-23.1

* Total passengers enplaned and deplaned, passengers in transit counted once

- The Airports Council International (ACI) released the list of the top 10 busiest airports worldwide for 2021.
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) has topped the list with 75.7 million passengers.
- Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) 62.5 million passengers) is second, followed by Denver International Airport (DEN, 58.8 million passengers) at the third spot.
- Top 5 busiest airports are:
 - 1 Atlanta
 - 2 Dallas Fort Worth
 - 3 Denver
 - 4 Chicago O'Hare
 - 5 Los Angeles

6. FOURTH US-INDIA 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE IN WASHINGTON DC



- Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III welcomed Ministers of Defense Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Dr S. Jaishankar to Washington, D.C. for the fourth US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.
- A virtual conference between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden preceded the Dialogue.
- With a shared commitment to democracy and pluralism, a multifaceted bilateral agenda, and growing convergence of strategic interests, the United States and independent India are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations.
- Both countries seek to maintain a resilient, rules-based international order that protects sovereignty and territorial integrity, upholds democratic values, and promotes peace and prosperity for all.

7. 'WAGAH OF GUJARAT', THE STATE'S NEW TOURIST DESTINATION



- Union Home and Cooperative Minister, Amit Shah has inaugurated the Seema Darshan Project at Nadabet on the Indo-Pak border in Banaskantha District of Gujarat.
- The project was launched with the aim to provide an opportunity for the citizen to observe the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border.
- The tourist can see missiles, tanks, aircraft etc which are used by the Indian Army and BSF at Nadabet.
- The project was initiated with the objective of giving the citizens of the nation an opportunity to see firsthand the lifestyle of the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel who are constantly protecting their motherland, as well as to observe their living conditions, and their duties and their patriotism.
- The idea to develop another border viewing point for tourists was mooted when Vijay Rupani was chief minister of Gujarat in 2018. It took three years for the state government to develop the point.

8. RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN BECOMES FIRST PLAYER TO GET RETIRED OUT IN IPL HISTORY



- Rajasthan Royals all-rounder, Ravichandran Ashwin became the first player in IPL history to get retired out during the high-octane clash against Lucknow Super Giants.
- Ashwin played a crucial knock of 28-run off 23 balls to revive Rajasthan's innings from a tricky stage when they were four down for 67.
- During the penultimate over, the veteran all-rounder made a sacrificing call of getting himself retired out to make way for Riyan Parag in the middle who has a slightly better ability to clear the boundary rope in the final overs.
- It did not happen before in the history of the tournament which started way back in 2008 but Ashwin being a trendsetter made the big decision so that Parag can come and attack the bowlers at the business end of the innings.

9. IIT MADRAS RESEARCHERS LAUNCH INDIA'S FIRST POLYCENTRIC PROSTHETIC KNEE



- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, have unveiled India's first Polycentric Prosthetic Knee, which seeks to improve the conditions for thousands above the amputees.
- 'Kadam,' a polycentric knee for above Knee Prosthesis created in collaboration with Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India, and is also a 'Made in India' product.
- Above-knee amputees can now walk with a natural gait thanks to Kadam.
- It not only attempts to improve users' mobility, but also their quality of life by increasing community participation, access to education, livelihood opportunities, and overall well-being.
- It was created by a team at IIT Madras' TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development

(R2D2), which also created and commercialised the country's first standing wheelchair, 'Arise,' and the NeoFly-NeoBolt: active wheelchair and motorised add-on for seamless indoor-outdoor mobility.

- R2D2 is active in human movement research, as well as the design and development of rehabilitative and assistive equipment for persons who have movement disabilities.

By Sameer Singhal

NATIONAL NEWS

1. BPCL, MICROSOFT ENTER 7-YEAR CLOUD PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), an Indian oil refinery, has teamed with Microsoft to improve its customer experience.
- It will also integrate cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) to help the oil and gas business adapt digitally.
- Microsoft will supply BPCL with infrastructure-as-a-service, platform-as-a-service, and cloud network and security services over the course of the seven-year partnership.
- BPCL plans to employ Microsoft's secure cloud platform to accelerate its cloud transformation, create smarter supply chains, and improve customer engagement.
- BPCL will also make use of Microsoft Teams and other productivity tools to improve employee communication.
- The two companies will work together to create a digital experience for BPCL consumers, reaffirm BPCL's brand promise of quality and trust, and develop Urja
- Microsoft has been an indisputable worldwide leader in technology.

2. UNDP ANNOUNCES \$2.2 MILLION IN CLIMATE ACTION GRANTS FOR INNOVATORS



- The UNDP and partners of the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM) have announced \$2.2 million in climate action funding for 22 local innovators from 19 countries, including India.
- The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) window's first round of funding will improve local climate action and speed the achievement of the Paris Agreement's and Sustainable Development Goals' ambitions.
- The project enables local actors and contributes to UNDP's and partners' worldwide endorsement of the principles for locally driven adaptation action.
- The Adaptation Innovation Marketplace will provide technical support and know-how for new funding applications launched.
- AIM is a strategy platform that supports scaled-up adaptation at the local level, concentrating on civil society, non-governmental organisations, and women and youth innovators, and was launched by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner at the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021.
- The marketplace brings together resources, know-how, and assistance to make local climate change financing more accessible.

3. NETHERLANDS LIFT FOURTH FIH JUNIOR WOMEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP TITLE, BEATING GERMANY 3-1



- The Netherlands has lifted their fourth title of FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 after beating Germany at Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- The Netherlands is the most successful team. England claimed the bronze medal in the third-place

match after defeating India by 3-0 in the shoot-out.

- The FIH has banned Russia from the 2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup due to 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- The 2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup will be the tenth edition and will be held in Santiago, Chile.

4. FALGUNI NAYAR WINS EY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2021



- Falguni Nayar has been named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021, at the 23rd edition of the EY Entrepreneur of The Year India awards.
- She is the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of beauty supply company Nykaa (FSN E-commerce).
- She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on June 9, 2022, at Monaco.
- The Lifetime Achievement was given to A. M. Naik, Group Chairman of Larsen & Toubro.
- Start-up: Vidit Aatrey, Co-founder & CEO and Sanjeev Barnwal, Co-founder & CTO, Fashnear Technology (Meesho)
- Business Transformation: Abhay Soi, Chairman and Managing Director, Max Healthcare
- Manufacturing: Sunil Vachani, Founder and Executive Chairman, Dixon Technologies
- Services: Sahil Barua, Co-founder and CEO, Delhivery
- Consumer Products & Retail: Shiv Kishan Agarwal, Chairman; and Manohar Lal Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director respectively, Haldiram Group
- Life Sciences & Healthcare: Dr. Satyanarayana Chava, Founder and CEO, Laurus Labs

5. INDIA'S SPACE DEBRIS BACK TO LEVELS BEFORE 2019 ANTI-SATELLITE TEST



- According to the most recent report of NASA's Orbital Debris Program Office's Orbital Debris Quarterly News, there are 25,182 pieces of space debris larger than 10 cm in lower earth orbits near 2,000 kilometres

of the planet's surface.

- India is responsible for only 114 space debris items, whereas the United States has 5,126 space debris objects in Earth's orbit and China has 3,854 space debris objects in Earth's orbit, including spent rocket bodies.
- Any man-made object in earth orbit that no longer serves a useful purpose is referred to as space debris, or space garbage.
- Space debris can be large items, such as failed satellites that have been left in orbit, or small objects, such as bits of debris or paint flecks that have fallen off a rocket.
- This debris can range in size from a leftover rocket stage to a minuscule paint speck.
- Much of the junk is in low Earth orbit, close to the Earth's surface.

6. PM MODI TO RECEIVE FIRST LATA DEENANATH MANGESHKAR AWARD FOR SELFLESS SERVICE TO NATION, SOCIETY



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award which is instituted in the memory of the veteran singer of Lata Mangeskar.
- PM Modi will receive the award for selfless service to the nation and society.
- The award ceremony will be held on April 24 which marks the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar (singing legend's father).

7. JAY SHAH APPOINTED AS MEMBER BOARD REPRESENTATIVE OF ICC CRICKET COMMITTEE



- Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, has been appointed to the ICC Cricket Committee as a Member Board Representative, while Mahela Jayawardene has been reappointed as the Past Player Representative.
- Other important decisions were also made at the ICC Board Meeting in Dubai.
- The CEC agreed, in keeping with a recent suggestion by the ICC Men's Cricket Committee, that when travel limitations are eased, more neutral match officials should be used, building on the success of the employment of local umpires.
- In Tests, one neutral and one home umpire will be permitted beginning in the 2022-23 season, while home umpires will be permitted in ODIs and T20s.
- Based on the recent decision to increase the ICC Women's Championship to ten teams, the ICC Board approved a recommendation that Associate Member women's teams be granted ODI status, allowing them to compete in global qualifying events based on ODI rankings.
- The ICC Board of Directors agreed that South Africa will host the inaugural ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup in January of next year, among other decisions. The competition will feature 16 teams and 41 matches.
- The eight-team ICC Women's Cricket World Cup qualification process was also revealed. At the conclusion of the 22-25 ICC Women's Championship, the host team, as well as the next five highest-placed teams, will automatically qualify .

8. MICROPLASTICS IN CAUVERY RIVER MAY BE HARMING FISH: IISc STUDY



- A study led by experts from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, discovered that microplastics and other contaminants may be causing growth abnormalities and skeletal deformities in fish in the Cauvery river.
- In the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the Cauvery provides a source of drinking water for humans and animals, as well as agriculture. Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety is the publication where the research was published.
- The researchers looked at pollution levels in river water samples as well as the microplastic composition.
- They next looked at zebrafish embryos that had been incubated in these substances in the lab and discovered that they had growth and skeletal malformations, a lower heart rate, a shorter life span, and DNA damage.
- The damage was related to molecules in the fish's cells known as reactive oxygen species (ROS), which are extremely reactive compounds formed from oxygen molecules.
- It was found out that the Cauvery waters are hypoxic.

9. UN-FAO: MUMBAI AND HYDERABAD RECOGNISED AS '2021 TREE CITY OF THE WORLD'



- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Arbor Day Foundation have jointly recognised Mumbai and Hyderabad as the '2021 Tree City of the World'.
- The two Indian cities have won the recognition for their "commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities".
- It must be noted that Hyderabad has been recognised for a second consecutive year.
- In 2021, Hyderabad was the only city in India to be recognised as a '2020 Tree City of the World'.
- Apart from Hyderabad and Mumbai 136 other cities from 21 countries have been recognised in the third edition of the Tree City of the World list.

By Sameer Singhal

NATIONAL NEWS

1. MINISTRY OF COAL ORGANISES YOGOTSAV COUNTDOWN PROGRAMME IN DELHI



- With just 67 days to go for International Day of Yoga, 2022, the Ministry of Coal organized the Yogotsav countdown programme in New Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by Coal Secretary, Dr. Anil Kumar Jain.
- The countdown celebration was attended by senior officials and staff of the Ministry.
- More than 100 persons participated in Yoga programme under the guidance of experts from Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga. Y-Break protocol effective for office was also demonstrated.
- All the PSUs which were connected through virtual mode, also had very useful interactions with the

Yoga experts and everybody felt that Yoga is very useful and needs to be practiced regularly.

2. PM MODI GREETES PEOPLE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH ON 75TH ESTABLISHMENT DAY OF STATE



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Himachal Pradesh on the 75th establishment day of the State.
- He noted the happy coincidence of the establishment day that comes in the 75th Year of the country's Independence.
- In his address on the occasion of Himachal Day, Mr Modi reiterated the commitment to take the nectar of development to every inhabitant of the state during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Recalling the challenges of the hilly state at the time of its formation in 1948, the Prime Minister complimented the people for converting challenges into opportunities.
- He praised the state's achievements in horticulture, power surplus, literacy rate, rural road connectivity, tap water and electricity to every household.

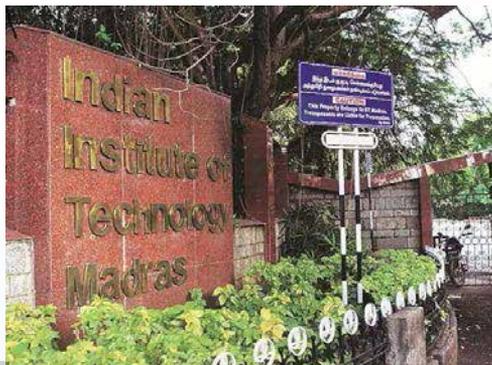
3. ORLEANS MASTERS 2022: INDIAN SHUTTLE MITHUN MANJUNATH WON SILVER



- Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath has won silver in Men's Singles at the Orléans Masters 2022, a badminton tournament held from 29th March to 3rd April 2022 in Orleans, France.
- Playing in his maiden BWF final, the 79th ranked Indian shuttler lost 11-21, 19-21 to world number 32 Frenchman Toma Junior Popov at the Palais des Sports Arena.

- The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam has won the bronze in the Women's doubles at the tournament.

4. IAF TIES UP WITH IIT MADRAS TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO MAINTAIN WEAPON SYSTEMS



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have signed a memorandum of understanding for technology development and finding indigenous solutions for the sustenance of various weapon systems.
- The joint partnership between IAF and IIT Madras aims to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- IIT Madras in partnership with IAF will significantly contribute to indigenisation efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF, towards enhancing sustenance capability, obsolescence management and achieving 'Self Reliance'.

5. INDIA TO HOST STREET CHILD CRICKET WORLD CUP IN 2023



- India is ready to host the Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023.
- This world is organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India, the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year.
- The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year.
- Countries that will participate this year are Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, England, Hungary, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.
- In addition to the partnership between Street Child United and Save the Children the SCCWC 2023 will

also collaborate with World Bank, ICC and the British High Commission.

6. VICE PRESIDENT CONFERS INTERNATIONAL GANDHI AWARD FOR LEPROSY, 2021



- Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy, 2021 to Dr Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh under the Indian nomination (individual) category and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat under the institutional category.
- The award was given during a function in New Delhi on April 13, 2022.
- Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust and Dr. Bhushan Kumar have been working round the clock to raise awareness regarding leprosy and the care that can be provided to those afflicted with this disease.
- They have also been working to remove the social stigmas that are associated with this disease.
- The annual award has been instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation to recognise the work of individuals and organizations who have worked tirelessly to fight this disease and the prejudices associated with it.
- The award commemorates the compassion that Gandhiji possessed and the service he rendered toward people afflicted with leprosy.

7. WORLD ART DAY 2022: 15 APRIL



- World Art Day is observed every year on 15 April globally.
- This day is being celebrated all over the world to emphasize the importance of art that nurtures creativity, innovation and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe.
- The day was declared by the International Association of Art (IAA), an NGO working in official partnership with UNESCO.
- The first celebration of World Art Day was held on April 15, 2012.
- The date has been selected in honour of the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci, the famous painter of the Mona Lisa.

- He was chosen as a symbol of world peace, freedom of expression, tolerance, brotherhood and multiculturalism as well as art's importance to other fields.

8. PM MODI INAUGURATES PRADHANMANTRI SANGRAHALAYA IN NEW DELHI



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi on April 14.
- The Sangrahalaya, located at the iconic Teen Murti complex, was inaugurated as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav — a 75-week celebration launched to mark 75 years of Independence.
- The museum will become a source of inspiration for the youth who will be able to witness the hardships each PM faced and how they overcame them to lay the foundations of a new India.
- The museum will reflect the shared heritage of each government.
- The Congress alleged that the new museum was an attempt to dilute the legacy of India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru, a charge rejected by the Centre.

By Sameer Singhal

NATIONAL NEWS

1. '\$3.50 PER SHOT': ISRAEL SUCCESSFULLY TESTS LASER-BASED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM 'IRON BEAM'



- Israel successfully tested a new laser missile-defense system 'Iron Beam' which can destroy any airborne object including drones.
- Iron Beam is the world's first energy-based weapons system that uses a laser beam to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets, mortars, long-range missiles, anti-tank missiles etc.

- The Iron Beam which is developed by the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is using a directed-energy weapon system and can go a long way in providing aerial defense.
- Iron Beam works on a fibre laser system to destroy any airborne object.
- Iron Dome defense system has been a great success, with a 90% interception rate against incoming rocket fire.

2. TAMIL NADU TO OBSERVE AMBEDKAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY AS 'EQUALITY DAY': CM STALIN



- Chief Minister MK Stalin announced in the Assembly that the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar (April 14) will be commemorated as 'Samathuva Naal' (Equality Day), and that a promise will be administered on that day, in accordance with Rule 110.
- The chief Minister stated that a demand to this effect was made during State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee Meeting on behalf of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, adding that the idea is to commemorate the day in the same way that Periyar's birthday is commemorated as 'Social Justice Day'.
- Former Union Minister and Nilgiris MP A Raja once demanded that BR Ambedkar's writings be translated into Tamil, according to the chief minister.
- "His request has been granted.
- The Tamil Nadu government plans to publish a few of Ambedkar's books."
- Chief Minister Stalin asked DMK personnel to commemorate Equality Day in the party's district unit offices and all 238 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram around the state of Tamil Nadu.

3. IAF TIES UP WITH IIT MADRAS TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO MAINTAIN WEAPON SYSTEMS



- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have signed a memorandum of understanding for technology development and finding indigenous solutions for the sustenance of various weapon systems.
- The joint partnership between IAF and IIT Madras aims to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- IIT Madras in partnership with IAF will significantly contribute to indigenisation efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF, towards enhancing sustenance capability, obsolescence management and achieving 'Self Reliance'.
- IAF has identified key focus areas involving technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems.
- IIT Madras will provide consultancy duly supported by research for feasibility studies and prototype development.

4. UTTARAKHAND TO LAUNCH "HIM PRAHARI" SCHEME FOR EX-SERVICEMEN & YOUNGSTERS



- The Government of Uttarakhand is set to implement the 'Him Prahari' Scheme which is meant for ex-servicemen and youngsters.
- The Uttarakhand Govt is seeking the cooperation of the Union Government to implement the scheme in areas bordering Uttarakhand.
- The scheme will also prioritize settling ex-servicemen in areas bordering the state.
- The scheme is aimed at stopping the migration of people from Uttarakhand and will focus on areas where migration occurs at a rapid phase so that people stay put, and not move out.
- The estimated expenditure of the scheme is around Rs 5.45 crore.
- The Him Prahari Scheme was announced by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Uttarakhand unit in its 2022 Election Manifesto.

5. KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LAUNCHES DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR BUSINESS BANKING, CORPORATE CLIENTS



- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has launched Kotak FYN, a new enterprise platform designed specifically for Business Banking and Corporate clients.
- Customers of the bank can utilize the portal to conduct all trade and service transactions.
- According to a press release, the Kotak FYN portal will contain many other services by the fourth quarter of 2022, including account services, payments, and collections.
- The portal will also have a dashboard that consumers can personalise, real-time tracking of transaction limits, access to prior transactions, and upcoming transaction events, among other things.
- It also promises to deliver a tailored experience in small steps with system stability.

6. GOVT SAYS EXCEEDED FY22 ASSET MONETISATION TARGET; Rs 96,000 CRORE REALISED



- According to the evaluation made at a high-level review meeting, the central government has exceeded its asset monetization target of 88,000 crore for FY22 and has concluded agreements worth 96,000 crore. Roads, power, and coal and mineral mining are among the industries that have made significant contributions to asset monetisation.
- The Centre has set an asset monetisation target of over 1.6 trillion dollars for FY23, for which proposals from various ministries are in various stages of processing.
- Prominent investors who purchased assets in FY22 include CPP Investments, Ontario Teachers Pension

Plan, and Utilico Emerging Markets Trust Plc. At the time of publication, emails made to these investors evening had gone unanswered.

- When the final data are in, the total asset sale in FY22 could reach \$1 trillion. Senior officials from the finance and infrastructure ministries, as well as the NITI Aayog, attended the meeting, which was headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

7. INDIA, FRANCE AFFIRM CLOSER DEFENCE TIES IN 20TH JOINT STAFF TALKS IN PARIS



- The 20th edition of the India-France Joint Staff talks focused on new initiatives within the framework of the existing bilateral defense cooperation mechanism, as well as improving current defense engagements.
- The two-day talks took place in a nice, warm, and courteous setting in Paris.
- The Joint Staff Consultations between India and France are a forum intended to improve defense cooperation between the two countries through frequent talks at the operational and strategic levels.
- The 20th edition of Joint Talks between India and France ended with the goal of actively enhancing defense cooperation.
- The two-day meetings focused on new projects that come under the existing bilateral defense cooperation umbrella, as well as the enhancement of ongoing defense engagements between the two countries.
- The India-France Joint Staff Forum was established with the goal of improving strategic and operational defense cooperation between the two countries.
- It is important to remember that one of the main pillars of the India-France Strategic Partnership is defense and security cooperation.
- India and France have agreed on a blueprint for the blue economy and ocean governance.
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By Sameer Singhal