

# PLUTUS ACADEMY

## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



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**18/04/2022 to 23/04/2022**

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## APRIL 2022

### National News

**MANIPUR: CM BIREN SINGH SAYS, 165 TALL INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG TO BE INSTALLED AT INA HEADQUARTER COMPLEX**



- The Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh said that a 165 ft. tall Indian National Flag, the highest in the Northeast region, would be installed at the Indian National Army (INA) Headquarter Complex at Moirang of Manipur.
- Speaking at the 78th Anniversary of Flag Hoisting Day observed today at INA Martyr's Memorial Complex, Moirang, Shri Biren Said that the pole for 165 feet tall Indian National Flag had already been erected and the Union Home Minister will visit the State and unfurl the Indian National Flag as part of the State government's 100 Days Action Plans.
- On 14th April 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Shaukat Ali of Indian National Army (INA) hoisted the Tricolor Flag of Free India, under the guidance of INA Supreme Commander Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, for the first time on Indian soil, he said.
- The Chief Minister said that the Subhash Brigade of INA along with the Japanese Army captured Moirang in early April of 1944 and set up the first Headquarter of INA in India at Moirang.
- Ninety-six Manipuris took part in the efforts of INA to capture Moirang from the British Army.

## 2. PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES 108 FT TALL STATUE OF LORD HANUMAN JI IN GUJARAT



- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has unveiled a 108 ft statue of Lord Hanuman ji in Morbi, Gujarat, at the Ashram of Bapu Keshvanand ji, via video conferencing, on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.
- This statue is the second among the four statues being built in the four directions across the country, as part of the 'Hanumanji Char Dham' project.
- The first such grand statue of Hanuman Ji was inaugurated in the North in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in 2010. The statue at Morbi has been set up in the West.
- The third statue will be set up in the South at Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. Similarly, the final statue will be established in East in West Bengal.

## 3. FOUNDATION DAY OF PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK CELEBRATED



- Punjab National Bank, India's second-largest bank has celebrated its 128th Foundation Day on April 12, 2022.
- On the occasion of foundation day, MD & CEO of PNB, Atul Kumar Goel has launched a cardless cash withdrawal service and a virtual debit card for its customers.
- Bank also launched various services on its mobile app named PNB One for safe banking transactions.
- PNB was established by the great freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, proudly known as Sher-e-Punjab (Lion of Punjab) in 1894 as the First Swadeshi Bank after being influenced by the swadeshi movement.

#### 4. PUDUCHERRY LG DR TAMILISAI SOUNDARARAJAN INAUGURATES BEACH FESTIVAL I SEA PONDY-2022



- In the presence of Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan opened the Puducherry first-ever Beach Festival I Sea PONDY-2022.
- Gandhi Beach, Pondy Marina, and Sandunes of Paradise Beach in Puducherry will host the festival for four days.
- During the festival, there will be a variety of cultural events and competitions.
- Pondicherry (or Puducherry) was a French colonial settlement in India until 1954, and is currently a Union Territory town bordering the Tamil Nadu state in the southeast.
- The French Quarter, with its tree-lined avenues, mustard-colored colonial mansions, and stylish stores, preserves the city's French heritage
- Along the Bay of Bengal, a beachfront promenade passes various statues, including a 4m-high Gandhi Memorial..

#### 5. UDAN GETS TOP BILLING, SELECTED FOR PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 2020



- The Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik), 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".
- UDAN scheme emphasizes on Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity

rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets.

- In a short span of five years, 415 UDAN routes have connected 66 underserved and unserved airports, including heliports and over 92 lakh people have benefited from it.
- 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.

## **6. INDONESIA SUSPENDS AGRI IMPORTS FROM INDIA**

- Indonesia has stopped imports of agricultural products from India, citing a failure by New Delhi officials to register laboratories that evaluate food safety and issue certificates of analysis (COA), causing worry among cereal exporters.
- In an order to the head of its Agricultural Quarantine Centre, the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture stated that its authority to accredited laboratories for testing the safety of fresh food from India and issuing the COA has been revoked.
- COAs issued by laboratories indicating that clear exports of fresh food of plant origin were certified in 2019 would not be recognised, according to the Ministry, although certificates issued on or before March 24 will be legitimate.
- Indonesian exporters have been notified of the order. The news came after Indonesia issued a notice to exporters requiring them to give extra information to the COA.
- The notification was sent three to four months ago by Indonesia.
- While countries like Vietnam and Thailand were able to register their laboratories providing COAs well ahead of time, Indian authorities were unable to meet the deadline.



## **7. PAYTM BECOMES OFFICIAL DIGITAL PAYMENTS PARTNER FOR PRIME MINISTERS' MUSEUM**

- Paytm has become an official digital payments partner for the prime ministers' museum. It is offering its payment gateway, EDC (Electronic Data Capture) machines and QR code payment options to make way for superfast, convenient and secure transactions.

- The museum, which is a tribute to former Prime Ministers of India, will be opened to the public on April 21, 2022.
- PM Modi also purchased the first ticket of the museum before its inauguration.
- The museum is built at a cost of Rs. 271 crores.
- It is constructed on the site of Teen Murti Estate, which served as the home of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, for 16 years until being converted into the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) following his death.



By Sameer Singhal

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### 1. **PREZ KOVIND GIVES ASSENT TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (IDENTIFICATION) ACT, 2022 AND THE DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) 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.
- It also provides legal sanction for taking appropriate body measurements of persons who are required to give such measurements which include finger-impressions, palm-print and foot-print impressions, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, biological samples, and their analysis among others.
- The new Act has replaced the Identification of Prisoners Act, of 1920.

- Ministry of Home Affairs will notify the date on which the Act will come into force and also notify the rules under the Act.
- The President has also given his assent to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022. It aimed at unifying the three existing Municipal Corporations of Delhi into one Municipal Corporation of Delhi.
- During the Budget Session, Parliament passed Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill 2022 and Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

**Q. Under which article does the president give assent to a bill?**

## **2. CENTRE TO ORGANIZE A GRAND EVENT TO MARK 400TH PRAKASH PURAB OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR AT RED FORT IN DELHI**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on the 400th Parkash Purab of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at the Red Fort in New Delhi on 21st of this month.
- On the auspicious occasion, the Prime Minister will release a commemorative coin and postage stamp.
- Addressing media in New Delhi about the programme, Union Minister of Culture G. Kishan Reddy said that Guru Tegh Bahadur stood up to the atrocities of the Mughals by protecting the freedom of Dharmic faiths.
- Mr Reddy said that Guru Tegh Bahadur fought for the rights of Sikhs and Hindus, especially Kashmiri Pandits, to practice their faiths by opposing forcible conversions.

**Q. Guru Teg Bahadur was the ninth sikh guru who was the eighth one?**

## **3. LIEUTENANT GENERAL MANOJ PANDE APPOINTED AS NEXT CHIEF OF INDIAN ARMY**

- Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the next Chief of Indian Army.
- The 29th Army Chief will be the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the Chief of Army Staff succeeding General Manoj Mukund Naravane who is scheduled to complete his 28-month tenure on 30th of April.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Lieutenant General Pande was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in December 1982.

**Q. Who is the current chief of Indian airforce and Indian Navy?**



#### **4. BRO TO CONSTRUCT WORLD'S HIGHEST TUNNEL AT SHINKU LA PASS TO CONNECT HIMACHAL TO LADAKH**



- BRO Director General Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhary announced that the Border Roads Organisation will build the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass, at 16,580 feet, to connect Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.
- He said this while opening the strategically crucial Himachal to Zaskar Road at Shinku La Pass, where more than a half-dozen vehicles crossed from the Zaskar side towards Manali.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), according to Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhary of PTI, would begin construction of the tunnel connecting Himachal Pradesh and the Zaskar Valley in Ladakh by July this year. He stated that the Centre has already established BRO's 'Mission Yojak' to carry out this ambitious project.
- The tunnel, which is expected to be completed by 2025, will transform the economy of Zaskar Valley, according to the official.

#### **5. FIRST IT TRAINING & SERVICES CENTER OF ETHOSH DIGITAL INAUGURATED IN LEH**

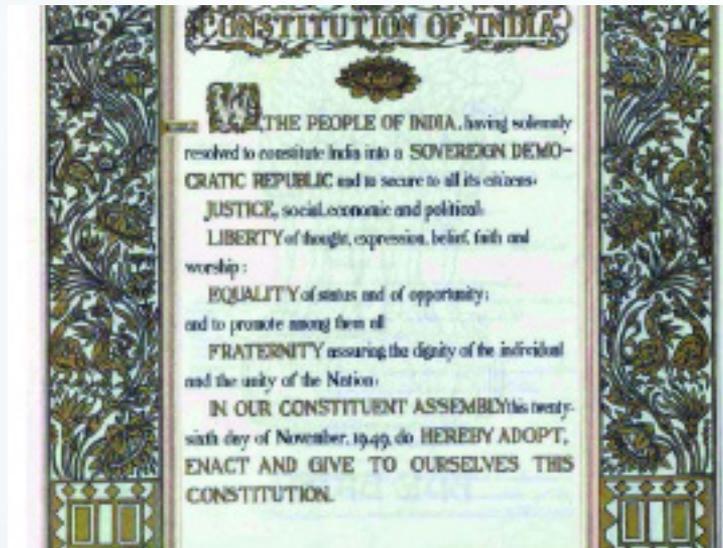
- Leh has taken the first step in building an IT sector. SS Khandare, the Additional Director General of Police for Ladakh, has opened Ethosh Digital's first IT Training and Services centre in Leh.
- Ethosh Digital is a multinational company established in California that specialises in digital

communications and AR-VR products.

- Ethosh Digital was assisted in establishing the first IT office in Ladakh by Aseem Foundation, a Pune-based NGO that works in India's border regions in the sectors of education, business, health, sports, and sustainable development.
- ETHOSH is a technology-driven firm that creates high-impact Digital Experiences for global industry leaders and big brands in the Lifesciences, Healthcare, and Engineering sectors.
- They specialise in marketing, customer service, training, and R&D enablement, therefore they generate unique digital content and solutions



## 6. 'THE BOY WHO WROTE THE CONSTITUTION': BOOK ON DR. B.R.AMBEDKAR



- On the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's 131st birth anniversary, a new book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution: A play for Children on Human Rights" authored by Rajesh Talwar, a fact-based drama on Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's own recollections of his childhood has been released. It is published by Ponytale Books.
- Talwar's also authored books include "The Vanishing of Subhash Bose", "Gandhi, Ambedkar, and the Four-Legged Scorpion", and "Aurangzeb".
- This book conveys to the children about the challenging boyhood and grown-up years of Ambedkar who had written the Constitution of India and became India's first law minister.

## 7. KARNATAKA APPOINTS ROBIN UTHAPPA AS BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR BRAIN HEALTH INITIATIVE



- The Karnataka State Government in association with NIMHANS and Niti Ayog launched the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI) in January.
- Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa has been recently appointed as the brand ambassador for Karnataka-Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI).
- Training of doctors and preparations to start Brain Health Clinics in the three pilot hospitals has also commenced.
- While training of doctors and preparations to start Brain Health Clinics in the three pilot hospitals – Jayanagar General hospital in Bengaluru Urban, SNR Hospital in Kolar and District Hospital in Chickballapur has begun.

## 8. HARYANA CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF SENIOR HOCKEY NATIONALS



- Haryana has emerged as the champions of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship by defeating Tamil Nadu 3-1 in the shootout after the final ended 1-1 in the regulation time.
- The tournament was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from April 6 to 17, 2022. Haryana has won the trophy for the first time since 2011.
- Karnataka prevailed over Maharashtra 4-3 in the third/fourth place classification match.

## 9. HUNAR HAAT” 40TH EDITION ORGANISED IN MUMBAI



- Union minister Anurag Thakur will open the 40th edition of “Hunar Haat,” a forum to preserve, protect, and promote local artists and craftsmen.”Hunar Haat” is bolstering Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appeal for “voice for local” and “Atma Nirbhar Bharat”.
- The 40th edition of the project, which was inaugurated by Union Ministers for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, will bring together at least 1,000 artisans and craftsmen from across the country.
- “Hunar Haat” has offered employment to over 9 lakh artists and craftsmen in just six years, in addition to promoting ancestral arts and crafts even in distant corners of the country.
- More than half of these recipients are women.
- Women craftsmen make up more than half of the recipients.
- Every “Hunar Haat” has an average of 8 to 10 lakh visitors. According to the report, over 4 crore people attended 39 “Hunar Haats” across the country to buy indigenous products, support artisans and craftsmen, and enjoy various musical and cultural programmes.

## 10. DANISH OPEN SWIMMING: VEDAANT MADHAVAN WINS 800M FREESTYLE GOLD

- Vedaant Madhavan added a second medal to his kitty, a gold in the men’s 800m freestyle at the Danish Open in Copenhagen.
- The 16-year-old bettered his personal best time by a whopping 11:48 to stop the clock at 8:17.28, edging past local swimmer Alexander L Bjorn by 0.10 to stand atop the podium on Sunday night.
- While Vedaant’s performance was good enough to fetch him a gold at the meet, it is a long way from international standards.
- USA’s Robert Finke had won the gold at the Tokyo Olympics in the event last year with a timing of 7:41.87, while the world record for the event stands at 7:32.12.
- However, Vedaant, son of Indian actor R Madhavan, has shown immense improvement.
- Earlier in the tournament, Sajan Prakash won the men’s 200m butterfly gold at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Competing in his first international meet this year, Prakash stopped the clock at 1:59.27 to stand atop the podium. Earlier, the swimmer from Kerala had clocked 2:03.67 in the heats to qualify for the ‘A’ final.

- Vedaant Madhavan bagged the silver medal in the men's 1500m freestyle event, who is the son of actor R Madhavan clocked 15.57.86 to finish second in the 10-swimmer final.



By Sameer Singhal

## National News

### 1. GUKESH WINS LA RODA INTERNATIONAL OPEN CHESS TITLE IN STYLE



- Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh has clinched the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament title in Castile-La Mancha, Spain.
- He defeated Israel's Victor Mikhalevski in the final round. GM Haik M. Martirosyan from Armenia placed second with 7.5 points.
- Indian GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa finished third followed by Raunak Sadhwani (India), Manuel Lopez Martinez Josep (Spain) and Ramon Martinez (Venezuela).

## 2. INDUSIND BANK WINS CELENT MODEL BANK AWARD (PAYMENTS SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION CATEGORY)

- IndusInd Bank has been awarded the global 'Celent Model Bank' award under the category of 'Payments System Transformation' for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH).
- The award recognises the Bank's outstanding journey in creating a cloud-based central payments hub.
- The award is given by Celent, leading research and advisory firm focused on technology for financial institutions globally.
- This payment hub is capable of seamlessly processing high transaction loads originating across all forms of payment instructions, and across all originating client touchpoints.



## 3. NEXO AND MASTERCARD LAUNCH 'WORLD FIRST' CRYPTO-BACKED PAYMENT CARD



- London-based Cryptocurrency lender, Nexo has joined hands with global payments company Mastercard to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card.
- Electronic money firm DiPocket is Nexo's card issuer. The card requires no minimum repayments, monthly, or inactivity fees. There are no FX fees for up to 20,000 euros per month.
- Interest remains at 0% for customers who maintain a loan-to-value ratio of 20% or below.
- This move by crypto and incumbent financial networks forces digital assets to become more mainstream. Initially, The card will be available in selected European countries.
- There are no restrictions on how much a customer can spend or withdraw from the open credit line and interest is only paid on the amount of credit actually used.

#### **4. SC RECONSTITUTES EXPERT COMMITTEE MONITORING GREEN IMPACT OF DELHI-DEHRADUN EXPRESSWAY**



- The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted the expert committee to monitor the compensatory afforestation and other mitigation measures for the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway project.
- The independent 12-member expert committee was formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to be headed by Sukhbir Singh Sandhu Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand.

#### **5. INDIA'S FIRST PORTABLE SOLAR ROOFTOP SYSTEM UNVEILED IN GANDHINAGAR**



- The first portable solar rooftop system in India has been inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The 10 Photovoltaic PV Port system has been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd and designed by the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- The systems have been installed under the initiative of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to develop renewable energy cities across India.
- The PV Ports have been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL), a leading maker of high-end solar products like LEDs, oxygen concentrators and EV charging equipment under the Make in India project, it added.
- The PV Port system is highly cost-effective, requires low maintenance, has a long shelf life of 25-30 years, can be easily installed by a single person and is ideal for the Indian climate.

#### **6. DEFENSE SECRETARY INAUGURATES 8TH NATIONAL LEVEL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE BY COAST GUARD**

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) kicked off the 8th edition of the two-day National Level Pollution

Response Exercise, 'NATPOLREX-VIII', on April 19, 2022, off Mormugao harbour, Goa. The marine spill preparedness exercise was inaugurated by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar.

- The exercise is being attended by more than 85 participants from 50 agencies, including 29 observers from 22 friendly foreign countries & International Organisations and two Coast Guard ships from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- The objective of NATPOLREX-VIII is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills.
- It aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) at the national and regional levels under the aegis of SACEP MoU to which India is a member state.



## **7. WORLD BANK: EXTREME POVERTY IN INDIA DECLINE 12.3% IN 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..

## **8. BIMAL KOTHARI APPOINTED NEW CHAIRMAN OF PULSES TRADE BODY IPGA**

- India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry, has

appointed Bimal Kothari as the new Chairman with immediate effect.

- Kothari takes over from Jitu Bheda, who was the IPGA chairman since 2018. Kothari, one of the key founding members of the association, has been the Vice-Chairman of IPGA since 2011 when it was formed.
- Bimal Kothari takes over as the third chairman of the association after Pravin Dongre and Jitu Bheda.



## 9. TRISHAKTI CORPS CONDUCTS EX KRIPAN SHAKTI IN WEST BENGAL



- Exercise KRIPAN SHAKTI, an Integrated Fire Power exercise was recently conducted by The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps at the Teesta Field Firing Ranges (TFFR), near Siliguri, West Bengal.
- The exercise was led by Lieutenant General Tarun Kumar and General Officer Commanding Trishakti Corps.
- The aim of the exercise is to showcase the joint manship and synchronisation capabilities of the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to fight in an integrated battle.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. INDIA GETS ITS SIXTH SCORPENE-CLASS SUBMARINE 'INS VAGSHEER' IN MUMBAI



- India's defense naval fleet got more teeth on Wednesday as defense secretary Ajay Kumar launched INS Vagsheer, the sixth Scorpene-class submarine under Project-75, at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai.
- Vagsheer is named after the sand fish, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.
- The first submarine Vagsheer, ex-Russia (then Soviet Union), was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 26 December 1974, and was decommissioned on 30 April 1997 after almost three decades of maritime service.
- The Mazagon Dock has so far delivered four Scorpene-class submarines under the project to the Indian Navy – INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj and INS Vela.
- The fifth submarine 'Vagir' is currently under trial at sea.
- Scorpene-class submarines can undertake multifarious missions such as anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, area surveillance, etc.
- The submarine is designed to operate in all theatres, with means provided to ensure interoperability with other components of a naval task force.

### 2. OIL COMMISSIONS INDIA'S FIRST PURE GREEN HYDROGEN PLANT IN ASSAM



- Exploration and production major Oil India Limited (OIL) has commissioned "India's first 99.999% pure" green hydrogen plant in Assam.
- Green hydrogen, which has the potential to replace fossil fuels, is the name given to hydrogen gas produced using renewable energy such as wind or solar power that do not entail greenhouse gas emissions.

- Sushil Chandra Mishra, OIL's Chairman and Managing Director, said the green hydrogen pilot plant set up in central Assam's Jorhat has an installed capacity for producing 10 kg of hydrogen per day.
- The plant is also the first in India to use the anion exchange membrane (AEM) technology.
- Green hydrogen is being produced from the electricity generated by a 500-kW solar plant using a 100-kW AEM electrolyser array.

### 3. NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY 2022: 21 APRIL

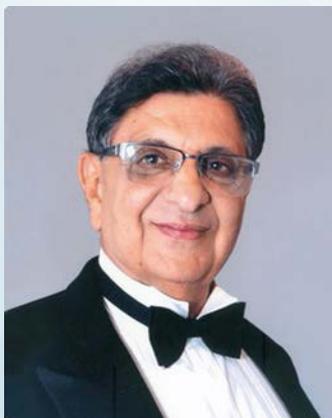
- National Civil Services Day is observed every year on April 21 in India.
- A civil service refers to the government civil servants who are the permanent executive branch of the Republic of India.
- The first Civil Service Day was celebrated on April 21, 2006, in New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan.
- Article 311 of the Indian Constitution protects civil servants from politically motivated or vindictive action.
- British colonial administrator Warren Hastings, who served as the first Governor of the Presidency of Fort William (Bengal), laid the foundation of civil service.
- But, Charles Cornwallis, 1st Marquess Cornwallis, later reformed, modernized and rationalized civil service and therefore, he is known as the 'Father of civil service in India'.



सत्यमेव जयते

### Civil Services Day

### 4. CYRUS POONAWALLA IS THE 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.

- With a net worth of \$26 billion, he trumped other pharma company owners from around the world.
- Poonawalla, the fourth richest Indian, grew his wealth by 41 per cent over the past year to \$26 billion, riding on the wide usage of the Covid-19 vaccines produced by the Serum Institute.
- Founded Serum Institute in 1966 and the company has grown to become the world's largest vaccine maker, producing over 1.5 billion doses of vaccines that counter measles, polio and flu among others.
- Cyrus Poonawalla is followed by Thomas Frist Jr & Family of HCA Healthcare
- China (34) has the most healthcare industry billionaires, followed by the United States of America (16), Switzerland (15), Germany (11), and India (9).

#### **5. SATYA EASWARAN BECOME WIPRO'S NEW COUNTRY HEAD FOR INDIA**

- IT major Wipro has announced the appointment of Satya Easwaran as the Country Head for India.
- He will be in charge of strengthening Wipro's business in India across segments through strategic consulting, transformation and modernisation engagements.
- He will help clients leverage Wipro's capabilities and investments in cloud, digital, engineering R&D, data/analytics and cybersecurity. "India is a strategic market for Wipro.



#### **6. UNION STEEL MINISTRY TO HOST NATIONAL METALLURGIST AWARD 2021 TODAY TO RECOGNISE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION OF METALLURGISTS, ENGINEERS**



- The Union Steel Ministry will host National Metallurgist Award 2021 in New Delhi today to recognise the outstanding contribution of metallurgists and engineers in the field of iron and steel.
- The programme will be chaired by the Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh.

- The Steel Ministry has instituted the National Metallurgist Award after extensive deliberations with the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding rationalisation of the awards in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The process of submissions of applications or nominations for the National Metallurgist Award 2021 was initiated during August to September last year.
- The awards will be given under categories like Lifetime Achievement, National Metallurgist, For Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector and Young Metallurgist.

## **7. GOVT ANNOUNCES FOODGRAIN OUTPUT TARGET OF 328 MT FOR 2022-23**



- Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture Minister, recently launched the National Conference on Agriculture for the Kharif Campaign 2022-23 at the NASC Complex in New Delhi.
- The Minister expressed his delight that, according to the 2nd Advance Estimates (2021-22), total food grain production in the country will reach 3160 lakh tonnes, a new high.
- The production of pulses and oilseeds will be 269.5 lakh tonnes and 371.5 lakh tonnes, respectively.
- Horticulture production is expected to reach 3310.5 lakh tonnes in 2020-21, the greatest level ever for Indian horticulture, according to third advanced projections.
- The Minister added that the centre and states will collaborate to secure the availability of herbicides and seeds, lowering farmers' input prices.
- He argued that a method for replacing urea with Nano-urea should be developed. He stated that the government would continue to prioritise natural and organic agriculture.

## **8. RBI CAPS LENDING LIMITS OF NBFCs TO BRING THEM ON A PAR WITH THOSE OF BANKS**

- In yet another move to close the regulatory gap between banks and shadow banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated exposure limits to the non-banking finance companies, in line with commercial banks.
- In the large exposure framework released on Tuesday, the regulator capped aggregate exposure of NBFCs which are in the upper layer toward one entity at 20% of capital base.
- The limit can only be extended by another 5% with board's approval.
- For a particular borrower group, the cap is at 25%, with additional 10% if exposure is towards infrastructure.
- The upper-layer NBFCs are typically the top 10 ones in terms of asset size.



## 9. JAMMU AND KASHMIR LAUNCHES APP TO HELP PEOPLE LODGE COMPLAINTS ONLINE



- The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, under the e-governance initiative has launched an app 'Jan Nigrani', intended to help people lodge their complaints related to various schemes online.
- The Jan Nigrani app is a 24×7 internet-based platform aimed at reporting and resolving the grievances of the residents of J&K, against various government schemes launched by the department.

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. PM MODI ADDRESSES NATION ON 400TH PARKASH PARV OF SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI AT RED FORT



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today participated in the celebrations of the 400th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at Red Fort in New Delhi.
- On this occasion, the Prime Minister also released a commemorative coin and postage stamp.
- Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri were present on this occasion.
- While addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said, India keeps in mind the progress of the whole world, when it talks about a self-reliant country.
- He said that efforts have to be made to build a self-reliant India on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav so that the world can see the potential of the country.

### 2. NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP MELA-2022 ORGANIZED AT MORE THAN 700 LOCATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



- Skill India, in association with the Directorate General of Training, organized a day-long 'Apprenticeship Mela' on Thursday across the country in more than 700 locations.
- In Mumbai, ITI, Dadar witnessed participation from more than 500 students. Thirty companies participated and 65 per cent of students were shortlisted.
- The Mela was organised with the aim to support the hiring of over one lakh apprentices and assist

employers in tapping the right talent.

- The aspiring youths had an opportunity to engage and select from different trades, including welder, electrician, housekeeper, beautician, mechanic, and others.
- Students who have cleared at least Class-5 to those who have graduated Class-12, skill training certificate holders, ITI students, diploma holders and graduates participated in this Apprenticeship Mela.

### **3. DEFCONNECT 2.0 IS CELEBRATION OF THE GROWTH OF INDIAN DEFENSE START-UP ECOSYSTEM SAYS DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, DefConnect 2.0 is a celebration of the growth of the Indian defence start-up ecosystem.
- He mentioned that this is the culmination of the success of his ministry's initiative Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX).
- Mr Singh highlighted iDEX has so far assisted in developing and processing a number of nascent and in-house technologies.
- This event will also be an opportunity for the start-ups to meet up with investors and to showcase their innovative technologies being developed with support from iDEX and their partners.
- Platform like iDEX was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018 and the idea is to find disruptive solutions to complex challenges through programmes like Defence India Startup Challenges (DISC) and Open Challenges (OC)
- This platform is like an umbrella organisation which is meant to oversee technology development and potential collaborations in the defence and aerospace field.



### **4. SMART CITIES, SMART URBANIZATION' CONFERENCE OPENS IN SURAT, WITH 100 SMART CITIES JOINING FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY**



- The 3-day “Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization” conference had a grand opening in Surat today.
- The event is being organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of

India with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd.

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs was the chief guest at the event. Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat addressed the gathering through a Video Message.
- Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Kaushal Kishore, Union Minister of State for Railways Ms Darshana

## 5. EARTH DAY 2022; 'INVEST IN OUR PLANET'



- Every year, April 22 is celebrated as International Mother Earth Day.
- The day is observed to create awareness about the rampant increase in pollution and other activities which directly or indirectly harm the environment and result in the destruction of the planet.
- The idea about the day came into existence after several challenges like pollution, and smog became major reasons for environmental damage.
- In the 1970s, Earth day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson to promote ecology and raise awareness of the concerns surrounding the earth.
- Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. This was when the peace activist John Mc Connell proposed to honour Mother Earth and the concept of peace during a UNESCO conference in San Francisco.

## 6. LIEUTENANT GENERAL MANOJ KUMAR KATIYAR APPOINTED AS NEXT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MILITARY OPERATIONS



- Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar has been appointed as the next Director General of Military Operations. He would take charge of the new office on May 1st.
- Katiyar is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy. He was commissioned in the 23rd battalion of the Rajput Regiment in 1986. Later, he commanded the regiment along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. He also graduated from the National War College, USA.

## 7. PROCTER & GAMBLE NAMES L V VAIDYANATHAN AS CEO FOR INDIA OPERATIONS



- Global FMCG firm Procter & Gamble on Tuesday announced the appointment of L V Vaidyanathan as the Chief Executive Officer for its operations in India from July 1, 2022.
- Vaidyanathan will take over from Madhusudan Gopalan, who will be taking up a leadership role within P&G as Senior Vice President Grooming & Oral Care, P&G Japan and Korea, the company said in a statement.
- An alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad, Vaidyanathan had joined P&G in 1995 as an intern and joined the India sales team straight from campus in 1996

## 8. DIGIT INSURANCE APPOINTS JASLEEN KOHLI AS MD AND CEO



- Digit Insurance has appointed Jasleen Kohli as the company's new managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) with effect from April 20, 2022.
- She succeeds Vijay Kumar who retired from the company on April 19, 2022.
- She served as chief distribution officer (CDO) at Digit, where she was responsible for all of the company's sales and distribution channels.
- In 2021, Digit increased its worth to USD 3.5 billion in less than six months after raising USD 200 million in a funding round.
- The company also announced it has promoted Adarsh Agarwal from the role of Appointed Actuary to Chief Distribution Officer (corporate business).

**By Sameer Singhal**

## National News

### 1. CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY'S SCHEME UDAN AWARDED PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION-2020



- The Civil Aviation Ministry's flagship scheme UDAN has been awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration-2020 under the category 'Innovation (General) - Central'.
- The award was given away by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to the UDAN team led by Joint Secretary, in the Ministry Usha Padhee.
- Government has initiated this award to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work done by districts and organizations.
- This scheme emphasizes on good governance, qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets.
- Government of India has instituted a scheme in 2006 namely, "The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration" - to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/ Organizations of the Central and State Governments.

### 2. STAGE SET FOR GRAND OPENING OF KHELO INDIA UNIVERSITY GAMES IN BENGALURU



- The countdown has begun for the inauguration of the Khelo India University Games in Bengaluru on Sunday by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- Addressing a curtain-raiser press conference in Bengaluru today, the Karnataka Sports minister Dr.Narayanagowda said that the preparations are in the final stage for the biggest sporting event post-Covid.
- He said that Union Sports minister Anurag Thakur and Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will be among the guests during the inaugural event.
- Acrobatics, Laser shows and cultural events depicting the heritage and traditions of Karnataka will be

part of the inaugural event.

- A commemorative postage stamp will be released to mark the occasion. The minister informed that for the Valedictory function on May 3rd, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Parliamentary Affairs minister Prahlad Joshi will grace the occasion.

### **3. WEST INDIES ALL-ROUNDER KIERON POLLARD ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET**



- West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has announced his retirement from international cricket. Pollard, who was the captain of West Indies' limited-overs teams, played a total of 123 ODIs and 101 T20Is.
- He has been an integral part of the Mumbai Indians team in the Indian Premier League for several years now and was retained by the franchise ahead of the mega auction in February this year.
- He was part of the West Indies team that won the 2012 ICC WT20 and missed out on his second T20 World Cup title in 2016 as he missed the tournament due to injury.

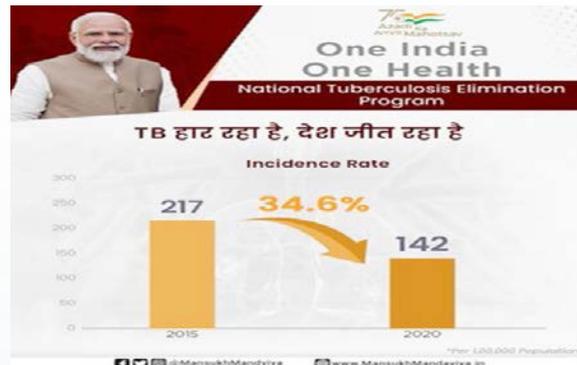
### **4. UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES, LAYS FOUNDATION STONES FOR 16 NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN JALGAON, MAHARASHTRA**



- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 16 National Highway projects worth 2,460 crore rupees in the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra yesterday.
- Speaking on this occasion, Mr Gadkari said that road connectivity is important for the transportation and milling of agricultural commodities in Jalgaon district, which is an important hub for banana, cotton and sugarcane production and has the highest banana production in the country.

- The Minister said, these road projects in the district will improve the connectivity of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

## 5. COUNTRY IS MARCHING RAPIDLY TOWARDS MAKING INDIA TB-FREE BY 2025, SAYS HEALTH MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA



- Mansukh Mandaviya Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has said that the country is marching rapidly towards making India TB-Free by 2025.
- In a tweet, Dr Mandaviya said, this will be achieved by ensuring access to quality health care and advanced treatment. He said, Narendra Modi Government is working with an aim to defeat TB by 2025.
- The Minister said, the incidence rate of TB has reduced to over 34 per cent. In 2015, the incidence rate of TB was 217 per lakh population, while has reduced to 142 in 2020.
- The mortality rate was also reduced to 53 per cent. In 2015, the mortality was 32 per lakh population, which has decreased to 15 in 2020.

## 6. UNION MINISTER G KISHAN REDDY ADDRESSES 30TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



- Union Minister for Development of North East Region, G. Kishan Reddy virtually addressed the 30th Annual General Meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce yesterday and encouraged the business community to invest in North east and tap its unexplored potential.
- The government has invited the business leaders to relocate their businesses to North-East Region and also assured complete support from the central and State government.
- He said that India has entered the Amrit Kaal, and during this phase, the true potential of each and every corner of India will be unleashed including the North East.

- Gangapuram Kishan Reddy is an Indian politician who is currently serving as Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region of India.

## 7. EMINENT PHYSICIST AJAY KUMAR SOOD APPOINTED PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR



- Ajay Kumar Sood, a member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, has been appointed to the post for a period of three years to succeed renowned biologist K VijayRaghavan.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Sood as Principal Scientific Advisor to the government.
- The PSA's office aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the prime minister and cabinet on matters related to science, technology and innovation with a focus on the application of science and technology in critical infrastructure, economic and social sectors in partnership with government departments, institutions and industry.

## 8. MUMBAI TO HOST INDIA'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL CRUISE CONFERENCE



- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and AYUSH, said that the 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference-2022 will be hosted in Mumbai.
- The two-day event in Mumbai is being organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mumbai Port Authority, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The Minister noted during a news conference in Mumbai that the Indian cruise market had the potential to develop tenfold over the next decade, owing to increased demand and disposable incomes.
- Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Rajiv Jalota, Chairman of the Mumbai Port Authority, and Sanjay Bandopadhyay, Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, all spoke at the event.

**By Sameer Singhal**