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(Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

- ✓ JICA to provide 4,710 cr. for Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project.
- ✓ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to approximately 4,710 crore (Japanese yen 73,000 million) for the construction of Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project.

➤ **Water Champion**

- ✓ Woman from Anaikatty named 'water champion'.
- ✓ A tribal resident of Anaikatty in Sigur in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) buffer zone is one of 41 women water champions recognised as part of an initiative by the Government of India and the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility (WGF).
- ✓ S. Lalitha, a field assistant for the community well-being programme at Keystone Foundation, was recognised by the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, the UNDP-India and the Stockholm International Water Institute "to underscore the critical role of women in water conservation and management."

➤ **Climate Literacy**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu government - has launched a massive project called 'climate literacy' for college and school students besides farmers and women.
- ✓ Under the new initiative, farmers and SHGs will be involved in the climate literacy programme through departments concerned at the district level.
- ✓ The new project aims to simplify the concept of climate change for the local community.

➤ **Corporation Launches 'Country's First' Gender Lab**

- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation has inaugurated a gender lab, said to be the first such initiative by an urban local body in the country.
- ✓ The civic body has appointed three specialists in the first phase to launch the facility.
- ✓ The three specialists, all women, will review every civic infrastructure project to suggest changes for improving the safety of women in public spaces.

➤ **Parandur and Pannur**

- ✓ The ministry of civil aviation - has selected Parandur and Pannur near Chennai for the city's second airport.

- ✓ Parandur is located at around 70km and Pannur 60km from Chennai near Sriperumbudur on the Chennai-Bengaluru route.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government had suggested Tiruporur, Parandur, Pannur and Padalam as the possible sites for the second airport.
- ✓ The ministry studied the proposed sites and selected Parandur and Pannur.

- **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)**
- ✓ TNSDC realigning strategies to help government realise vision.
- ✓ In an effort to bridge the gap between demand and supply of manpower requirements and to help the State government achieve its aim of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2030, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) is realigning programmes and strategies, according to latest industry standards and requirements.
- ✓ The primary focus of the TNSDC is to bring more industries into the training ecosystem.

- **Kaaval Uthavi**
- ✓ On April 4, chief minister MK Stalin – inaugurated the new updated mobile application ‘Kaaval Uthavi’ (police assistance) of Tamil Nadu Police at the Secretariat.
- ✓ Using the newly released application, people can now virtually reach the city police control room in a few seconds just by clicking an emergency button on it.
- ✓ Users can also file an online mobile complaint and share their current location using the application.

- **State Education Policy (SEP)**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - constituted a 13-member panel to evolve its own State Education Policy (SEP).
- ✓ The panel is to be headed by former chief justice of Delhi high court Justice D Murugesan.
- ✓ The panel members include former chess world champion Viswanathan Anand, prominent Carnatic musician T M Krishna and former Vice-Chancellor of Saveetha University L Jawaharnesan.

- **Periyar Samathuvapuram**
- ✓ Stalin inaugurates Periyar Samathuvapuram in Villupuram.
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday stressed the need for the country to emerge as a Samathuvapuram (equality village) and said Tamil Nadu and its Dravidian model would show the way to achieve this goal.

➤ **Metrolite**

- ✓ Coimbatore city may be the first city in the State to have a Metrolite system that will cover 45.87 km with 40 stations, making a halt at several important landmarks of the city, including Coimbatore Airport.

➤ **Global Investors' Meet (GIM)**

- ✓ On April 6, Chief Minister M K Stalin - said in the assembly that a global investors' meet (GIM) would be organised in Tamil Nadu by the end of 2023 to attract foreign investments and generate employment in the state.
- ✓ The CM also said that the state officials will be going Switzerland to participate in the World Economic Forum's annual meet 2022 to attract investments into Tamil Nadu.

➤ **People's Movement for Clean Cities**

- ✓ Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru announced a new scheme 'People's Movement for Clean Cities' (PMCC) to ensure cleanliness in urban local bodies by engaging all stakeholders.
- ✓ He also announced that a Smart Governance System (SGS) would be launched for all urban local bodies to ensure proper service delivery, including provision of drinking water and other basic amenities.

➤ **Hong Fu Industrial Group**

- ✓ Leading Taiwanese shoemaker Hong Fu Industrial Group - plans to invest 1,000 crore over the next 3-5 years in Tamil Nadu to make sports shoes for global brands like Nike and Puma.
- ✓ The unit will employ around 20,000 people, a majority of them women.
- ✓ Hong Fu is world's second largest maker of sports shoes and other footwear with a large manufacturing presence, through multiple units in Vietnam.

➤ **Women Entrepreneurs Scripting a Silent Transformation**

- ✓ The 2021 edition of Women & Men in India, published last week by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has an element of surprise for Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ With about 10.87 lakh units, Tamil Nadu accounts for the highest number of women entrepreneur-owned establishments, which cover not only micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) but also nano units, promoted through platforms such as the self-help groups (SHGs).

✓ The State's share is around 13.5 % of 80.5 lakh such establishments in the country. "No other State is even close to ours," observes an official in the State government, dealing with development issues.

➤ **Nagarum Kooturavu Vangigal**

✓ On April 8, Minister for Cooperation - announced that 34 banks-on-wheels (Nagarum Kooturavu Vangigal) will be introduced on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank and all district central cooperative banks at a cost of Rs 5.69 crore.

✓ The mobile co-operative services will also provide key banking services, including mini-ATM services and tab-enabled banking facilities.

➤ **Testing TB along the same lines as COVID-19**

✓ Tamil Nadu plans to test for TB along the same lines as COVID-19.

✓ Tuberculosis (TB) case findings that were hit in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic have improved with targeted interventions in the State.

✓ Now, to reduce the TB burden to 44 per one lakh population by 2025, Tamil Nadu is aiming at testing more for TB along the same lines of COVID-19 to detect more cases.

✓ Among the key objectives of the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) is to reduce the estimated TB incidence rate to 44 per one lakh population and reduce estimated mortality due to TB to 3 per one lakh population by 2025.

➤ **Research Park**

✓ Anna University to get 50 crore to establish research park.

✓ The Higher Education Department has proposed to invest around 65 crore to develop research facilities in Anna University. The Department's budget is focused on improving infrastructure, including hostel and research facilities, in government colleges.

✓ Anna University will receive 50 crore to establish a research park to be used for industry-related research and incubation centres to benefit around 20,000 students of undergraduate, postgraduate and engineering research.

➤ **Government Focuses on Upgrading Schools**

✓ '7,500 smart classrooms will be set up'.

✓ Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi has said 7,500 smart classrooms will be set up in elementary schools at a cost of 150 crore in the 2022-23 academic year.

➤ **Saksham 2020**

- ✓ Contribute to the Mission of Fuel Conservation. Governor launches 'Saksham 2020' awareness campaign.
- ✓ Governor R. N. Ravi on Monday launched "Saksham 2020", a month-long mass awareness campaign on oil and gas conservation.
- **Indian Air Force signs MoU with IIT Madras**
- ✓ Indian Air Force and IIT Madras signed an MoU on 13 April 2022 for various developmental projects to support the requirements of the IAF.
- ✓ The partnership aims to accelerate IAF's indigenization efforts for achieving 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.
- **TANSIM**
- ✓ A financial assistance of 30 crore has been given to Tamil Nadu Start up and Innovation Mission to encourage entrepreneurs from SC/ST communities.
- **Samathuva Naal**
- On April 13, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced that the government would celebrate Dr B R Ambedkar 's birth anniversary on April 14 as the Day of Equality (Samathuva Naal).
- ✓ On the occasion, Day of Equality pledge would be taken by government workers across the state.
- ✓ Notably, reformist leader Periyar's birth anniversary, on September 17, has already been declared as Social Justice Day by the DMK government.
- **Onion Cultivation Mission (OCM)**
- ✓ Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam - made 15 announcements, which would be implemented at a cost Rs 104.97 crore, in the assembly during the discussion on demand for grants to his department.
- ✓ During the discussion, the minister said the State will implement an Onion Cultivation Mission (OCM) at a cost of Rs 40 crore this financial year to ensure an uninterrupted supply of onions
- **Resolution against CUET**
- ✓ The government of Tamil Nadu has adopted a resolution urging the government of India to drop the CUET (Central Universities Common Entrance Test) proposal.
- ✓ In the resolution passed by the state, the assembly stated that an entrance exam based on the National Council of Education Research and Training syllabus will

not be providing equal opportunity to all the students as there are varied state boards across the country.

➤ **One Lakh Free Agricultural Power Connections**

- ✓ On April 16, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced that the state government has made a historic achievement by giving one lakh free agricultural power connections within a year of assuming office.
- ✓ The free power has helped the farmers to increase the area under cultivation by 2.13 lakh acres.

➤ **GE partners with TIDCO**

- ✓ GE partners with TIDCO to set up centre of excellence in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ US-based aircraft engine manufacturer GE has partnered with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).
- ✓ It will set up a centre of excellence in Tamil Nadu on emerging aviation engine technologies. It will work towards technology development of aviation engine parts.

➤ **School Management Committees (SMC)**

- ✓ On April 19, Chief Minister M K Stalin and school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi - launched a drive for reconstituting School Management Committees (SMC) in all government schools.
- ✓ The drive was launched at Lady Willingdon Higher Secondary School in Triplicane, Chennai.
- ✓ In this regard, the school education department has issued new guidelines to reconstitute SMCs in all 37,558 government schools.

➤ **Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department**

The Tamil Nadu Industries Department - will be renamed as 'Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department'.

- ✓ This was announced by Industries minister Thangam Thennarasu in the Legislative assembly after tabling the Policy note of his department on April 19.

➤ **Vidiyal**

- ✓ The state organ transplant authority, Transtan - is planning to use a new app to ensure transparency, limit human interventions and increase efficiency in organ transplantation process.
- ✓ The new app, that is both mobile and web-friendly, is named 'Vidiyal'.

➤ **Go Live**

- Tamil Nadu - has recently launched the trials of online single window system 'Go Live' that aims to facilitate building plan approvals within 60 days
- ✓ In this regard, Tamil Nadu housing and urban development department has ordered Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) to make the 'Go Live' website fully functional in a few weeks.

- **4 Olympic Training Academies**
- ✓ The government of Tamil Nadu has decided to set up four Olympic Training academies in the four zones of the state.
- ✓ The efforts by the State Government will ensure that Tamil Nadu athletes win international sports and championships, including the Olympics.

- **Youth Welfare and Sports Development**
- ✓ On April 21, Chief Minister M K Stalin - made various announcements in the Assembly for youth welfare and sports development, including establishing a mega sports city near Chennai.
- ✓ The CM said that a modern sports complex would be built in North Chennai with state-of-the-art facilities for volleyball, badminton, basketball, boxing, kabaddi and other indoor games, besides a modern gymnasium at 10 crore.
- ✓ The government will set up Olympic Academies in each of the four zones in the state to win medals at the international events.
- ✓ Further, the CM announced 3% reservation in employment for silambam champions.

- **Senior Citizens Welfare**
- ✓ Separate wing to be formed for senior citizens' welfare.
- ✓ The elderly population of the State was expected to increase from 75 lakh currently to 1.42 crore by 2031.
- ✓ A detailed feasibility study would be carried out at a cost of 1 crore to build an integrated complex of special homes for senior citizens at Thundalkazhani in Kancheepuram district.

- **TANUVAS**
- ✓ TANUVAS ranked first among veterinary universities in country.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) has been ranked first among the 15 State veterinary universities in India by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in its recent (2020) rank list.

- **T.N. To Set Up 600 'Village Secretariats'**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government will set up 'village secretariats' that will help implement its schemes in rural areas.
- ✓ A total of 600 village panchayats would be covered in the first phase this year.
- ✓ Mr. Stalin said the gram sabha meetings would be held six times a year. Besides on Republic Day (January 26), Labour Day (May 1), Independence Day (August 15) and the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2), the gram sabhas would meet on World Water Day (March 22) and Local Governance Day (November 1).

➤ **Minority Rights Day**

- ✓ 'Minority Rights Day' celebration announced.
- ✓ Minority and NRI Tamils Welfare Minister Gingee K.S. Masthan said a State-level 'Minority Rights Day' celebration will be held on December 18 every year.

➤ **International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID)**

- ✓ The International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID) - has recognised three ancient waterbodies in Tamil Nadu – Grand Anicut, Veeranam lake and Kalingarayan Anicut – as World Heritage Irrigation Structures for the year 2021.
- ✓ The ICID had recognised these irrigation structures on the lines of world heritage sites labelled by the UNESCO.

➤ **Zero Shadow Day**

- ✓ On April 24, Chennai - to witness zero shadow day at 12.07 PM.
- ✓ The sun will cast shadow towards the west and when it transits the local meridian (local noon), it will be right above our head and there won't be any shadow
- ✓ After Chennai observes zero shadow, it will happen in Bengaluru, which has the same 13° north latitude as Chennai but different longitude.

➤ **Sengadu Village Panchayat**

- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday said his government aimed at ensuring that all welfare schemes reached people in villages across the State.
- ✓ He took part in a special gram sabha meeting in Sengadu village panchayat at Sriperumbudur in Kancheepuram district on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.

➤ **Three New Sanctuaries**

- ✓ On April 25, forest minister K Ramachandran - told in the assembly that three new sanctuaries would be created in Tamil Nadu this year.
- ✓ Three new sanctuaries include - one for birds at Nanjanrayan tank in Tirupur, another for elephants at Krishnagiri and a third for slender loris in Dindigul.

- ✓ The Nanjarayan tank in Tirupur will become the 17th bird sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- **Naatu Kuttai Cattle Breed**
- ✓ Conservation centre for Naatu Kuttai cattle breed to be set up at Kattupakkam.
- ✓ Conservation centres for Kangeyam, Puliur, Pargur, Umblacherry and Alambadibreeds already set up to protect them from extinction.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) has decided to set up a conservation centre for Naatu Kuttai Maadugal, a cattle breed prevalent in Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Villupuram districts.
- **TNEB 2.0**
- ✓ On April 26, The Tamil Nadu government - unveiled its ambitious initiative TNEB 2.0 to augment the power infrastructure to meet the state's growing demand.
- ✓ Tangedco has set a deadline to add 6,220 MW to the grid in the next five years by commissioning seven projects at a cost of 41,623 crore.
- ✓ Electric vehicle charging stations would be set up at substations located on state and national highways, said the Minister.
- **Seerthirutha Siragugal**
- The prison department - proposes to implement a new scheme titled 'Seerthirutha Siragugal'.
- ✓ The initiative seeks to reform and rehabilitate prisoners and appoint social casework experts and welfare officers for central prisons and special prisons for women.
- ✓ The department is also planning to change the diet of jail inmates to ensure a supply of nutritional food as part of the rehabilitation programme.
- **Kalimedu Electrocutation**
- ✓ The tragedy that claimed the lives of 11 persons and injured 17 others in Kalimedu could have well been averted, locals say.
- ✓ Two or three factors were missed while planning the event, and a set of changed circumstances rendered the villagers impervious to the dangers on the procession route.
- **Mega Textile and Apparel Park**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - will soon establish a mega textile and apparel park spread over 1000 acres in Virudhunagar.

- ✓ The textile park would be set up under the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks (MITRA) scheme.
- ✓ The government would also take measures to establish 'Tamil Nadu pavilion' in international textile fairs to promote the products from the state.

- **CM rewards Joshna Chinnappa**
- ✓ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday handed over a cheque for 75 lakh to squash player Joshna Chinnappa, who won a gold medal in the world doubles championships in Glasgow recently.

- **Clean Hospital**
- ✓ Manapparai government hospital tops list of clean hospitals in State.
- ✓ It was a proud day for the medical and support staff of the District Headquarters Government Hospital, Manapparai, when they were informed that the healthcare facility had won the first place at the State-level for 'Clean Hospital' in the National Health Mission's 'Kayakalp' programme 2021-22 on Thursday.

- **Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC)**
- ✓ The brochure and social media handles of the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) - were launched by the state environment department on April 29.
- ✓ TNGCC is an initiative that aims to tackle climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.
- ✓ The company is mandated to implement Climate Change Mission, Green Tamil Nadu Mission and Wetlands Mission.

STATES

➤ **Lowest Unemployment Rate**

- ✓ Chhattisgarh has been ranked 1st among states with the lowest unemployment rate in the country.
- ✓ According to the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, Chhattisgarh has registered an unemployment rate of 0.6% this March 2022, which is the lowest so far. Haryana has the highest unemployment rate followed by Rajasthan.
- ✓ The country's unemployment rate stood at 7.6%.

➤ **Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy**

- ✓ Delhi - has now become the first state in the country to incentivize e-cycles under its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy.
- ✓ The incentives will be eligible to both passenger and cargo e-cycles having a speed of less than 25 km/hour.
- ✓ A purchase incentive of 25% of MRP upto Rs 5,500 will be provided to the first 10,000 buyers.

➤ **Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea**

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea will soon get a European Commission Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag); this tag helps Kangra tea to get an opportunity to enter the European market.
- ✓ Kangra tea received the Indian GI tag in 2005.
- ✓ Since 1999, the cultivation and development of tea have improved constantly in the Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh.

➤ **Jamtara**

- ✓ Jamtara becomes country's first district with library in every village.
- ✓ Jamtara in Jharkhand has become the only district in the country where all gram panchayats have community libraries.
- ✓ This district with a population of about eight lakh has a total of 118-gram panchayats under six blocks and each panchayat has a well-equipped library.

➤ **Parvatmala Yojana Scheme**

- ✓ The National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and the Himachal Pradesh Government - signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for seven ropeway projects construction in the State under the Parvatmala Yojana scheme.

- ✓ Parvatmala is a National Ropeways Development Programme proposed to create a modern system of transportation and connectivity on the mountains.

- **Maharashtra Gene Bank**
- ✓ On April 28, Maharashtra cabinet – approved the 'Maharashtra Gene Bank', a first-of-its-kind project in the country.
- ✓ The project seeks to conserve native and endangered animals, crops, marine and biological species
- ✓ It will work on seven themes -- marine, crop, veterinary, freshwater, grassland biodiversity, protection and management of forest right areas, and regeneration of forests.

- **Vacuum-Based Sewers**
- ✓ Agra - has become the first city in the country to have vacuum-based sewers used in public places.
- ✓ The corporation has connected 240 such houses in a low-lying area near the Taj Mahal with vacuum-based sewer where conventional sewer systems cannot be used.
- ✓ All the chambers of this system have been equipped with geographic information system (GIS) based sensors.

NATIONAL

➤ **The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022**

- ✓ Government introduces 'The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022' in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ Union Minister Jitendra Singh introduced 'The Indian Antarctic Bill 2022' in Lok Sabha on 01 April 2022.
- ✓ The Bill aims to provide a regulatory framework for India's research activities in the Antarctic and protect the Antarctic ecosystem.

➤ **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP)**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet-led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - approved \$808 million (6,062.45 crore) for a new World Bank-assisted scheme 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP).
- ✓ The new scheme is expected to commence in the financial year of 2022-23.
- ✓ The programme aims at improving access to market and credit, strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State.

➤ **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**

- ✓ India - has contributed \$500,000 to the UN Women, the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment, for their core budget.
- ✓ The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, founded in 1976) and other organisations merged to form UN Women, which began operations in January 2011.
- ✓ The UN Women or also known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is an entity working under the United Nations for women's empowerment and gender equality.

➤ **Broadcast Seva Portal**

- ✓ Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur - launched the ministry's 'Broadcast Seva' Portal on April 4.
- ✓ The portal is an online solution for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licenses, permissions, and registrations.

➤ **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill**

- ✓ On April 6, the Rajya Sabha - passed the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, which would enable investigating officers to collect biometric details of prisoners, by a voice vote.

- ✓ The Bill provides a legal safeguard for police and investigating agencies to collect and store biological and physical samples of convicts and those accused of a crime.
- **'One Health' Pilot Project**
- ✓ Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched 'One Health' pilot project in Uttarakhand. This pilot project has been launched to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit.
- ✓ Its main aim is to develop a national One Health roadmap based on the outcomes of the pilot project.
- **District Ganga Committees (DGCs)**
- ✓ Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - launched the 'Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees (DGCs) Performance Monitoring System' (GDPMS) on April 6.
- ✓ The meeting was also attended virtually by the representatives of over 100 District Ganga Committees from across the Ganga Basin
- ✓ As per the Minister, the Digital Dashboard launched will help the DGCs in enhancing people-river connect.
- **Health Benefit Package, 2022**
- ✓ The National Health Authority - has launched a new version of the Health Benefit Package, 2022, under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ With Health Benefit Package, 2022, differential pricing is being introduced under the scheme based on the type of city and level of care.
- ✓ In the new pricing formula, the cost of 832 packages have been increased.
- ✓ The new package features 365 new procedures, including bone marrow transplant and cochlear implant surgery, which took the total to 1,949.
- **Distribution of Fortified Rice**
- ✓ The supply of fortified rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), by 2024 has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs that is chaired by PM Modi.
- ✓ As part of the food subsidy, the Central Government will be bearing the entire cost of Rs. 2,700 crore per annum for rice fortification till its full implementation up to June 2024.
- ✓ The government has plans to make the availability of fortified rice at ration shops.
- **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”.
- **Deoghar Ropeway Accident**
- ✓ 14 more rescued from ropeway; one dead.
 - ✓ Attempts to rescue cable car passengers stranded for over 46 hours in the Trikut hills in Deoghar district of Jharkhand ended with a tragedy on Tuesday as a 60-year-old woman fell to her death while being winched up to a helicopter, raising the death toll to three.
 - ✓ However, 14 of the last remaining 15 tourists, trapped mid-air for more than 40 hours, were rescued during the day.
- **University Grants Commission (UGC)**
- ✓ On April 13, the University Grants Commission (UGC) – announced new guidelines that will be applicable from the academic year 2022-23 onwards.
 - ✓ As per the new regulations, students will now be allowed to simultaneously pursue two full-time degree programmes in physical mode.
 - ✓ In May 2020, the UGC had approved a proposal to allow students to pursue two degree programmes at the same time – one in regular mode and the other in open/distance learning/online format.
- **OBC Entrepreneurs Own Nearly 30% of India's MSMEs**
- ✓ Entrepreneurs from Other Backward Classes (OBC) own nearly 30% of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.
 - ✓ As regards the OBC-owned enterprises, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of such units with 3,37,016, of which 3,23,441 units come under micro enterprises; 12,778 under small enterprises; and 797 under medium enterprises.
- **Amrit Samagam**
- The Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah - inaugurated the “Amrit Samagam”, a two-day conference of tourism and culture ministers of the country.
- ✓ The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) concluded its first year recently, since its launch on March 12, 2021.
 - ✓ In view of this, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has organized “Amrit Samagam” conference on April 12 and 13, 2022, in New Delhi.

➤ **Svanidhi se Samridhhi” Programme**

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) - launched the “Svanidhi se Samridhhi” programme in 126 additional cities across 14 states and Union territories on April 12, 2022

- ✓ Under the second phase of the scheme, 28 lakh street vendors and their families will be covered
- ✓ MoHUA has been implementing Prime Minister Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM Svanidhi), a central sector scheme, since June 1, 2020.

➤ **Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya' on April 14th. It is a museum dedicated to showcase the contributions of all the former Prime Ministers since independence.
- ✓ PM Modi became the first visitor to buy a ticket to the museum, which has been guided by his vision to honour the contribution of all the Prime Ministers of India towards nation-building.

➤ **Hunar Haat' Festival**

- ✓ The 40th edition of the Centre's 'Hunar Haat' festival - to be inaugurated by Union Minister Anurag Thakur in Mumbai on April 17.
- ✓ The festival, which will conclude on April 27, is aimed at promoting ancestral crafts from remote areas of India.
- ✓ It provides a platform to preserve, protect and promote local artisans and craftsmen.

➤ **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**

- The Union Cabinet - approved the continuation of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) till 2025-26 with an outlay of 5,911 crore.
- ✓ The scheme is aimed at empowering elected representatives of Panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) for leadership roles
- ✓ It also seeks to help 2.78 lakh rural local bodies achieve sustainable development goals.

➤ **Childline 1098 May be Merged with Emergency Helpline 112**

- ✓ Childline 1098 is the country’s only dedicated helpline number for children and the entire child rights sector relies on it to provide assistance to them, but today a cloud hangs over its future as the government plans to merge it with national emergency helpline 112.

- ✓ Emergency helpline 112 of the Ministry of Home Affairs that also provides assistance with services related to police, health and women's safety.
- **Project Yojak**
 - ✓ BRO to build world's highest tunnel at 16,580 feet.
 - ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass, which will connect Himachal Pradesh to Zaskar Valley in Ladakh. The tunnel will be constructed at a height of 16,580 feet.
 - ✓ The Centre has already made 'Project Yojak' of BRO to execute this ambitious project.
- **Indian and Foreign Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**
 - ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) - has finalised 'Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to offer Joint Degree, Dual Degree and Twinning Programmes Regulations, 2021'.
 - ✓ As per the regulations, Indian students will be able to earn a dual degree conferred by Indian and foreign HEIs, separately and simultaneously.
- **Dhaksha Unmanned Systems (DUMS)**
 - ✓ Dhaksha Unmanned Systems (DUMS) guided by Anna University - has been shortlisted by the ministry of civil aviation to manufacture indigenous drones as a part of the 'Make in India' programme.
 - ✓ DUMS is provisionally selected as a drone manufacturer along with four other firms.
- **India's First Pure Green Hydrogen Plant**
 - ✓ India's first 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant has been commissioned by the Oil India Limited (OIL) at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam.
 - ✓ The plant has an installed capacity of 10 kg per day.
 - ✓ The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.
- **Guru Tegh Bahadur**
 - ✓ On April 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the nation from the Red Fort to mark the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
 - ✓ PM Modi is the first prime minister to deliver a speech at the Mughal-era monument after sunset.
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin and postage stamp on the occasion.
- **Dr Ambedkar Centres for Excellence (DACE)**

- ✓ On April 22, the central government - will launch a pan India scheme which will involve setting-up Dr Ambedkar Centres for Excellence (DACE) in 31 central universities across the country.
 - ✓ The centres of excellence are being set up to provide high quality free coaching facilities to the Scheduled Caste students for the Civil Services exams, conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- **Fincluvation**
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) – announced the launch of a joint new initiative named ‘Fincluvation’.
 - ✓ The initiative is part of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence and ongoing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotasav.
 - ✓ The first-of-its-kind industry initiative, Fincluvation would create a powerful platform to mobilize the start-up community towards building meaningful financial products aimed at financial inclusion.
- **‘e-DAR’ (e-Detailed Accident Report)**
- ✓ The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways - has developed a new portal named ‘e-DAR’ (e-Detailed Accident Report) in consultation with insurance companies.
 - ✓ The portal is designed to provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and to provide faster accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims’ families.
- **Dairy Community Radio Station (CRS) – Dudh Vani**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated the country’s first ever dairy community radio station (CRS) dedicated to animal husbandry, Dudh Vani, during his recent Gujarat tour.
- ✓ This will be the country's first community radio station dedicated only to cattle breeders.
 - ✓ The new radio station seeks to connect over five lakh dairy farmers across 1,700 villages in the State.
- **India’s First Carbon-Neutral Panchayat**
- ✓ Palli village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first panchayat in the country to become carbon-neutral, fully powered by solar energy.
 - ✓ All its records have been digitised and the benefits of all the Central schemes are available in this village around 17 km from Jammu.

➤ **Call 1930 to Report Fraud**

- ✓ The public should call 1930 in case any money has been taken out of their accounts fraudulently online.
- ✓ DGP (Cyber Crime) Amaraesh Pujari said 1930 is the Cyber Financial Fraud helpline introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to help people in distress if someone fraudulently withdraws money from their accounts or digital wallets or misuses their credit /debit cards. It is an all-India helpline.

➤ **Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari**

- ✓ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare - is organizing the 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign in association with various other Ministries & Departments of the Government of India.
- ✓ The campaign was held from 25th April to 30th April 2022 under the centre's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative with the participation of over one crore stakeholders and farmers

➤ **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 (UBA 2.0)**

- ✓ Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 (UBA 2.0) - has completed four years of implementation on April 25, 2022.
- ✓ The scheme was launched on April 25, 2018 to provide transformational changes in rural developmental processes.
- ✓ It was launched to link the Higher Education Institutions with set of atleast five villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base.

➤ **Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme**

- ✓ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - has launched a revamped Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme.
- ✓ The first phase of this overhauled programme will focus on manufacturing MSMEs while the second phase would be for those MSMEs in the services sector.
- ✓ The ZED certification can help MSMEs get easier access to capital, reduce wastage substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc.

➤ **Enterprise India**

- ✓ The Ministry of MSME - has launched month-long initiative "Enterprise India" to promote entrepreneurship culture and create awareness about the schemes and initiatives of the Ministry.

- ✓ Enterprise India is a series of commemorative entrepreneurship development events and activities being organised from April 27 up to May 27, 2022
- **Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak**
On April 28, Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh - launched '**Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak**' in New Delhi as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
- ✓ The 90-day campaign aims to provide 75 districts with various beneficiary schemes of nine union ministries
- ✓ The identified districts are the birthplace of 99 freedom fighters, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during its struggle for independence.



SCHEMES

➤ 'AVSAR' Scheme

- ✓ Under the "AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region) scheme, an area of 100-200 square feet will be allocated to self-help groups at each Airports Authority of India (AAI) operated airport.
- ✓ It will give an opportunity for self-help groups for showing their local products at airports, like Puffed Rice, Packaged Papad, Pickles, etc.
- ✓ The main aim of this initiative is to support Self Help Group by promoting their local products.

➤ Gram Swaraj Scheme

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a proposal to continue the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a scheme for improving the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj institutions, till 2025-26.
- ✓ The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78 lakh rural local bodies.
- ✓ The statement said the scheme would work towards "poverty-free and enhanced livelihood in villages; healthy villages, child-friendly villages; water-sufficient villages; clean and green villages; self-sufficient infrastructure in villages; socially-secure villages; villages with good governance and engendered development in villages."

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

- ✓ India gets elected to four bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- ✓ India has been elected to Commission for Social Development, Committee on NGOs, and Commission on Science & Technology for Development.
- ✓ The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is responsible for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

➤ **Twitter**

- ✓ On April 25, Billionaire Elon Musk - has reached an agreement to acquire Twitter for approximately \$44 billion (around Rs. 3,365 crore) in an all-cash transaction with shares valued at \$54.20.
- ✓ Musk bought a 9.2% stake in Twitter on April 4 and then announced his takeover bid on April 14, calling it his 'best and final offer'.
- ✓ Musk is the world's wealthiest person, with a fortune of \$257 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**

- ✓ Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and his Australian counterpart Dan Tehan - will sign the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) in a virtual ceremony on April 2, 2022.
- ✓ The agreement covering trade in goods and services, is a balanced and equitable pact that aims to further strengthen the strategic relations between the countries.

➤ **4th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**

- ✓ The fourth India-US 2+ 2 Ministerial Dialogue will be held on 11 April 2022.
- ✓ The Indian delegation is being led by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.
- ✓ The US will be represented by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Llyod Austin.

➤ **India and Finland**

- ✓ India and Finland - have announced the launch of Indo-Finnish Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing and signed a formal MoU to that effect.
- ✓ The Indian side has identified three premier institutes - IIT Madras, IISER Pune and C-DAC Pune for the Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing.

➤ **India and Maldives - Transmission Interconnection**

- ✓ Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R. K. Singh met Aminath Shauna, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives on 26 April 2022.
- ✓ Both leaders proposed two MoU - one on Energy cooperation and another on transmission interconnection under One Sun, One World, One Grid.
- ✓ Both have proposed to establish transmission interconnection for renewable power transfer.

➤ **India and European Union**

- ✓ India and European Union - have agreed to set up a joint Trade and Technology Council to deepen their strategic relationship.
- ✓ The agreement on the launch of the council was reached at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen recently on April 25.
- ✓ The agreement assumes importance as the United States is the only other country that has a technical agreement with the EU similar to the one signed with India.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ **India-UK Strategic Futures Forum**

- ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and visiting British Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss - addressed the the first India-UK Strategic Futures Forum on March 31, 2022.
- ✓ During the bilateral meeting, India and Britain called for upholding principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the UN charter and international law, besides favouring more robust economic, strategic and defence ties.

➤ **East Asia Summit Workshop**

- ✓ India and Singapore organised 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.
- ✓ Countries including Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, and Republic of Korea participated.

➤ **Waterways Conclave 2022**

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) - has organized "**Waterways Conclave 2022**" on April 11 and 12 in Dibrugarh, Assam.
- ✓ In line with the aspirations of PM Gati Shakti National Masterplan, Waterways Conclave aims for speedy development of multimodal projects in the North-eastern region to boost the economic activities and augment employment generation.

➤ **Semicon 2022 Conference**

- ✓ On April 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will inaugurate India's first Semicon 2022 Conference in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The conference will be organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology from April 29 till May 1 at ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru.
- ✓ The theme of the conference - Design and Manufacture in India, for the World: Making India a "Semiconductor Nation".

✓ **Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3-day Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit in Gandhinagar on April 20, 2022.
- ✓ The summit aims to attract lucrative investments to build India as the Global Ayush Destination in the world.

- ✓ India will soon have a special AYUSH mark that will be applied to the highest quality of AYUSH products.
- **AAHAR-2022**
- ✓ The 36th edition of Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair, AAHAR-2022 – was held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi between April 26 and 30, 2022.
- ✓ The fair was organized by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).



DEFENCE

➤ **'Varuna' Naval Exercise**

- ✓ The 20th edition of the bilateral naval exercise that is named 'Varuna' is being conducted by India and France in the Arabian Sea from 30th March till 3rd April 2022.
- ✓ The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001.

➤ **Seema Darshan Project**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **HELINA (Helicopter-based NAG)**

- ✓ On April 12, India - carried out yet another successful test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' (Helicopter-based NAG) in high altitude conditions in Ladakh.
- ✓ The flight test was jointly conducted by teams of scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Indian Army, and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

➤ **Lt General Manoj Pande**

- ✓ Lt General Manoj Pande - will take over as the next Army chief from General M M Naravane.
- ✓ With the appointment, Pande will become the first ever officer commissioned in the Corps of Engineers to head the 12-lakh strong force.
- ✓ Lt Gen Pande, who turns 60 on May 6, will take over as the 29th Army chief on April 30.

➤ **NATPOLREX-VIII**

- ✓ 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 the Defence Secretary.

- ✓ 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.
- **INS Vagsheer Submarine Launched**
- ✓ INS Vagsheer, the sixth Scorpene Submarine of Project-75 was launched in Mumbai on April 20, 2022.
- ✓ The naval ship will now undergo various trials and tests, both in harbour and the sea before it is commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- ✓ INS Vagsheer is the last of the Scorpene Class Submarines of Project-75.
- **DefConnect 2.0**
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on April 22, 2022, will inaugurate DefConnect 2.0 organized by the Innovations for Defence Excellence, Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO).
- ✓ The event in Delhi will attract a large number of innovators and investors from India's leading industries in the defence sector.
- **Scheme for Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)**
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime and the sixth Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC-6) meant to encourage defence start-ups during DefConnect 2.0.
- ✓ The iDEX-Prime aims to support projects, requiring support beyond 1.5 crore up to 10 crore, to help the ever-growing start-ups in the sector.

ECONOMY

➤ **Gross Tax Receipts**

The country's gross tax receipts - reached a record high of Rs 27.1 lakh crore for 2021-22.

- ✓ This was due to massive revenues from income, corporate taxes, customs and GST following a strong economic recovery and more tax-compliance.
- ✓ The higher collection also led to the highest tax-to-GDP ratio in 23 years at 11.7%.
- ✓ Against the Union Budget estimates of Rs 22.2 lakh crore, the revenue receipts according to the pre-actual figures totalled Rs 27.1 lakh crore
- ✓ This shows a growth of 34% over last year's revenue collection of Rs 20.3 lakh crore.

➤ **Egypt Accredited India as Wheat Supplier**

- ✓ Egypt is one of the biggest importers of wheat in the world. Currently, it imports the majority of wheat from Russia and Ukraine. Approval for India as a wheat supplier has created a new window of opportunity.
- ✓ APEDA is trying to boost wheat exports to countries like Yemen, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

➤ **Asset Monetization**

- ✓ Government collected Rs 96,000 crore through asset monetization.
- ✓ During FY 2022, the Government has surpassed its target of Rs 88,000 crore by collecting 96,000 crores through asset monetization.
- ✓ The list of assets to be monetized this year is being prepared by the NITI Aayog along with different ministries.

➤ **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

- ✓ India's economy - is estimated to grow by 8.2% in the current fiscal year (2022-23), as per the latest forecast of International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ✓ Earlier, the agency has predicted a growth of 9% and the sharp drop in growth is attributed to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the IMF forecast India's economy to grow by 6.9% in 2023-24.

APPOINTMENT

➤ **UN Chief Names an Indian in Climate Team**

- ✓ Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water, has been appointed a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against global warming.
- ✓ Mr. Ghosh is among three Asians, and the only South Asian, serving on the expert group.

➤ **Ketanji Brown Jackson**

- ✓ In a landmark decision in American history, the United States Senate - confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman to sit in the country's Supreme court on April 7.
- ✓ The United States Senate took the historic decision by 53-47 votes after three Republican Senators Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Mitt Romney voted in her favour along with 50 members of the ruling Democratic Party.

➤ **New UPSC Chairman**

- ✓ Eminent scholar-academician Manoj Soni new UPSC chairman.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Prior to this assignment, Soni has also served as the vice-chancellor of two universities.

➤ **A.K. Sood**

- ✓ Ajay Kumar Sood has been appointed Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Union government, a Personnel Ministry order issued on Wednesday said.
- ✓ He is a member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
- ✓ The body has nine major missions: Natural Language Translation, Quantum Frontier, Artificial Intelligence, National Biodiversity Mission, Electric Vehicles, Bio-science for Human Health, Waste to Wealth, Deep Ocean Exploration, and Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNIi).

➤ **NITI Aayog - New Vice-Chairman**

- ✓ The government on Friday appointed Suman K. Bery as the vice-chairman of the NITI Aayog following the resignation of Rajiv Kumar.

- ✓ Mr. Bery will take charge from May 1, 2022.
- **Emmanuel Macron**
- ✓ Emmanuel Macron - was re-elected as **President** of **France** on April 24, beating rival Marine Le Pen for another five years in office.
- ✓ With the win, Macron became the first president to win a second term since Jacques Chirac in 2002.



AWARDS

➤ **64th Annual Grammy Awards**

- ✓ Indian-American musician Falguni Shah and US-born, Bengaluru-based Rickey Kej - bagged trophies at the 64th annual Grammy awards on April 3.
- ✓ Falguni, a New York-based musician who goes by her stage name Falu, won a Grammy for Best Children's Music Album for 'A Colorful World'.
- ✓ Kej won the Best New Age Album category for 'Divine Tides' for which he collaborated with Steward Copeland, drummer for The Police.

➤ **Tomb of Sand**

- ✓ On April 7, Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' - became the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize.
- ✓ The 'Tomb of Sand' will compete with five other titles from around the world for the £50,000 literary prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator.
- ✓ The book was translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.

➤ **2022 World Press Photo of the Year**

- ✓ A photo taken next to the former Kamloops Indian Residential School has been chosen as the 2022 World Press Photo of the Year.
- ✓ For the 1st time in the contest's 67-year history, the World Press Photo of the Year is a photograph without any people in it.
- ✓ The photo was taken by Amber Bracken, a photographer from Edmonton, commemorates children who died at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

➤ **1st Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **International Gandhi Award for Leprosy 2021**

- ✓ The International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 has been presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu to Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and the Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust of Gujarat at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- ✓ The award was given to Dr. Bhushan Kumar and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust for raising awareness about leprosy and providing care to those afflicted with it.

➤ **Innovation Award**

✓ Chennai - has won the best city award for Covid-19 response under the award category innovation award given by the ministry of housing and urban affairs. The city also received the awards under the smart city category and for waterbody restoration.

➤ **e-Proposal System**

- ✓ A key initiative titled "e-Proposal System" of the Planning department of Meghalaya government - wins the coveted UN Award - World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum Prizes 2022.
- ✓ The "e-Proposal System", part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), seeks to eliminate 75% physical work of files in government departments
- ✓ Meghalaya was selected among the top 360 projects across the world.



PERSONALITIES

- **Oorvasi Gandhi**
- ✓ For the first time, the Union ministry of culture - has appointed a transgender person, activist Oorvasi Gandhi, as the non-officio member of the council and executive committee of the National Culture Fund (NCF).
- ✓ She has been working for the rural transgender communities of the state for more than two decades.

- **Raghav Chadha & Radhika Gupta**
- ✓ Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha, Edelweiss Mutual Fund CEO Radhika Gupta and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov - were named by the World Economic Forum in its 2022 list of Young Global Leaders.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Queen of Fire**
- ✓ Award-winning children's writer and historian, Devika Rangachari have authored a new novel titled "Queen of Fire".
- ✓ It explores the story of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Hottest March**

- ✓ The month of March 2022 - remained as the hottest March in India's recorded history since 1901, as per the data of India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- ✓ The month this year surpassed the all-time average maximum temperature record of March 2010.
- ✓ India's average monthly day temperature during the month in 2010 had surged to 33.09°C. March 2022, however, recorded 33.1°C as its average monthly day temperature, surpassing all past heat records for the month.

➤ **Geomagnetic Storm**

- ✓ A geomagnetic storm is expected to hit the Earth today on April 7.
- ✓ The storm was caused by a filament eruption from the Sun on March 3 rd. NOAA has categorized the geomagnetic storm as G1, which means that it is a minor storm.
- ✓ A geomagnetic storm can cause fluctuations in power grids, have a minor impact on the satellites in the Low Earth Orbit and raise auroras to higher altitudes.

➤ **Near-Identical Twin - Jupiter**

- ✓ Astronomers - have discovered a planet that is nearly identical to Jupiter, circling a star 17,000 light-years away from the Earth.
- ✓ The 5th planet in our solar system - the Jupiter - is known for its bright colours and dominated by a massive swirl of storm.
- ✓ In terms of mass, the exoplanet, dubbed K2-2016-BLG-0005Lb, is nearly the same as Jupiter.

➤ **Polycentric Prosthetic Knee**

- ✓ On April 8, the researchers from IIT Madras - launched the country's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee.
- ✓ The newly developed knee can bend more, offers stability while walking and costs just one-fifth of imported devices.
- ✓ Named 'Kadam' (footstep), the four-bar knee joint provides a knee bend of 160 degrees or more so users can sit in cramped places such as buses, autos and cabs.

➤ **Axiom-1 (Ax-1) Mission**

- ✓ In a historic development, the crew members of the Axiom-1 (Ax-1) mission - are all set to enter the International Space Station (ISS).

- ✓ On April 8, the combined mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Axiom Space was successfully launched to the International Space Station in SpaceX's Dragon capsule 'Endeavour' atop a Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ The mission is the first-ever all-private spaceflight to carry astronauts to the International Space Station.

- **Legal Rights to Wild Animals**
- ✓ Ecuador has become the first country to give legal rights to wild animals.
- ✓ Highest court of Ecuador decided to recognize the rights while hearing the case of Estrellita, a woolly monkey.
- ✓ Rights of nature recognize legal rights of the ecosystem to exist and regenerate.
- ✓ Ecuador earlier became the world's first country to recognize nature as a legal entity.

- **First made in India Dornier Aircraft**
- ✓ The Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia flagged off the first flight of Made in India HAL Dornier Do-228 on 12 April 2022.
- ✓ The flight will be operational from Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh and finally to Lilabari in Assam.

- **Mynvax: India's Prospective Warm Vaccine**
- ✓ In India, a prospective vaccine against COVID-19 or SarsCov2 is being developed that doesn't require refrigeration or stored in cold-chain storage.
- ✓ This 'warm' vaccine is being developed by Mynvax laboratories, a Bengaluru-based company that was incubated at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore.

- **Radio Aksh**
- ✓ India's first radio channel for visually-impaired people launched.
- ✓ The country's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named 'Radio Aksh' has been launched in Nagpur.
- ✓ It will help the visually-impaired gain seamless access to education resources and audiobooks.

- **Space Bricks**
- ✓ A team from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the ISRO - has developed a new technique to make "space bricks" using Martian Simulant Soil (MSS).
- ✓ The team has demonstrated that Microbial Induced Calcite Precipitation (MICP) – where, under right conditions, certain bacteria precipitate calcium carbonate – can create bricks using MSS.

- ✓ The discovery has the potential of aiding construction of future settlements on Mars.
- **Actinimenes koyas**
- ✓ Scientists discovered a new species of shrimp in Lakshadweep. Scientists of ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) have discovered a new species of shrimp.
- ✓ This new species has been named 'Actinimenes koyas' in honour of the local community on the Lakshadweep islands.



SPORTS

➤ **FIFA World Cup 2022**

- ✓ The draw for the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup 2022 – concluded at Doha, capital of the host country Qatar on April 1.
- ✓ The tournament will run from November 21 to December 18 in Qatar, the first time ever the soccer world cup hosted in the Middle East.
- ✓ FIFA has unveiled La'eeb as the official mascot for this year's FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.
- ✓ La'eeb is an Arabic word meaning super-skilled player.

➤ **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022**

- ✓ Australia won ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022.
- ✓ After defeating England by 71 runs in Christchurch, Australia has won the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.
- ✓ In women's cricket, Australia has won 7 of the 12 World Cups that have been held.

➤ **PSA World Doubles Squash Championships**

- ✓ India - bagged their first-ever gold medals in PSA World Doubles Squash Championships in Glasgow, Scotland on April 9.
- ✓ Dipika Pallikal combined with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa to clinch twin gold medals for the country in mixed and women's doubles respectively.

➤ **International School Sports Federation (ISF) Gymnasiade 2022**

- ✓ Melur girl qualifies for sports event abroad.
- ✓ Ananthi, a beach volleyball player from Melur, has qualified for the International School Sports Federation (ISF) Gymnasiade 2022, to be held at Normandy in France between May 13 and 28.

➤ **71 Senior National Basketball Championship**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu men - registered a comprehensive win over Punjab to regain the senior National basketball crown at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on April 10.
- ✓ This was Tamil Nadu's 10th National title.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu finished third in the women's event.

➤ **Reykjavik Open Chess Tournament**

- ✓ GM R Praggnanandhaa - won the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament in Iceland on April 12.
- ✓ In the nine round swiss tournament, R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot GM D Gukesh in the final round to win the 5,000-euro first prize (\$5,413).
- ✓ It has to be recalled that R Praggnanandhaa defeated World Champion Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of the online rapid chess tournament, Airthings Master in February 2022.

- **2026 Commonwealth Games**
- ✓ 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.

- **Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023**
- ✓ India will host Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023.
- ✓ 22 teams from 16 countries will come to India to participate in Street Child Cricket World Cup next year.
- ✓ The event will be held in September before the ICC World Cup.
- ✓ The world cup is organized by Street Child United (a UK-based charity) and Save the Children India.

- **48th Open Ajedrez La Roda Chess Tournament**
- ✓ D Gukesh, the third youngest Grandmaster in the world - has won the 48th Open Ajedrez La Roda chess tournament at La Roda in Spain.
- ✓ Gukesh remained unbeaten in the nine rounds tournament, winning seven games and drawing two.

- **Danish Open - Swimming**
- ✓ The 16-year-old son of actor R Madhavan, Vedaant Madhavan – won a gold and a silver in 800m and 1500m freestyle swimming events at the on-going Danish Open in Copenhagen.
- ✓ India now has a haul of three medals in the ongoing meet including two gold's and a silver.

- **Asian Championships - Wrestling**
- ✓ India's Sarita Mor - became the first woman wrestler from the country to win a record fourth Asian Championships medal.

- ✓ On April 21, Sarita, hailing from Haryana's Sonapat district, clinched a bronze with a win over Kazakhstan's Diana Kayumova in the Ulaanbaatar continental meet in Mongolia.
- **Asian Wrestling Championships**
- ✓ Olympic silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya - became the first Indian wrestler to claim three successive gold medals in the Asian wrestling championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on April 23.
- **83rd Senior National and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships**
- ✓ Veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal - secured his 10th national title in the men's singles category at the 83rd Senior National and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships that concluded at the SAI Indoor Stadium in Shillong on April 25.



OBITUARY

➤ **Vishwa Deenadayalan**

- ✓ Vishwa Deenadayalan, 18-year-old Table Tennis player from Tamil Nadu - passed away in a road accident in Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya on April 17.
- ✓ Vishwa had won the U-19 boys' singles crown at the National-ranking event in Dehradun in January.

➤ **Elvera Britto**

- ✓ Celebrated women's hockey player and administrator Elvera Britto passed away here on Tuesday. She was 81.
- ✓ An outstanding player and champion of women's hockey, Elvera was the captain of the Indian and then Mysore teams.
- ✓ She received the Arjuna Award in 1965.

REPORT

➤ **World Bank Report - Poverty**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **86.45% Fall in Malaria Cases**

- ✓ In his address on World Malaria Day, the Health Minister said, "Not only diagnosis and treatment, swachhta (cleanliness) in our personal and community surroundings and social awareness regarding malaria control and prevention are equally important in our collective fight against the disease and for meeting our goal of elimination by 2030."
- ✓ This year's theme is "Harness innovation to reduce the global malaria disease burden and save lives".

RANKINGS

➤ **Hurun Research Institute**

- ✓ Three Indian women - are on the list of the world's richest self-made female billionaires, which was released by the Hurun Research Institute.
- ✓ Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar is India's richest self-made female billionaire, followed by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw of Biocon and Radha Vembu, co-founder of Zoho Corporation.

➤ **Electronics R&D Centres - Chennai**

- ✓ Chennai - has emerged the cheapest location for operating electronics R&D centres among the top 100 electronics FDI locations globally.
- ✓ Penang followed second with an operating cost of \$1.32 million, followed by Gurgaon (\$1.52 million) and Pune (\$1.53 million) at third and fourth place in terms of cost of operating a similar 50-seater R&D centre over 2,000 sq m space.
- ✓ Further, Chennai was rated as the second best place in terms of the world's most competitive location for electronics R&D activities.

➤ **NITI Aayog - Energy and Climate Index List**

- ✓ Gujarat has topped the list for larger States in the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 that has ranked States and Union Territories (UTs) on six parameters including discoms' performance, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- ✓ In terms of energy efficiency, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have done well while in terms of Discom's performance, two small UTs – D&D and D&N – have done well.

➤ **Third Largest Military Spender**

- ✓ India - is ranked as the third largest military spender in the world behind UK and Russia.
- ✓ This is based on the latest data released by global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on April 25.
- ✓ However, India remains far behind China that spends four times and the US which spends 10 times its defence budget.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	The 2022 theme for World Autism Awareness Day is "Inclusive Quality Education for All".
April 2	International Children's Book Day	In 2022, Canada is hosting International Children's Book Day with this chosen theme: "Stories are wings that help you soar every day."
April 4	International Day for Mine Awareness	The theme of International Mine Awareness Day 2022 is "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home."
April 5	National Maritime Day	The theme of the National Maritime Day is "Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19".
April 6	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Theme 2022 - "Securing a Sustainable and Peaceful Future for All: The Contribution of Sport".
April 7	World Health Day	Theme 2022 - 'Our Planet, Our Health
April 7	International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide	The day of 7th April is observed as International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda every year across the world.
April 10	World Homoeopathy Day	World Homeopathy Day is celebrated each year on April 10 to pay tribute to homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine.
April 11	World Parkinson's Day	World Parkinson's Day is observed annually on April 11

		to spread awareness about the neurodegenerative disease.
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	In India, the National Safe Motherhood Day is observed every year on April 11 to raise awareness about adequate access to care for women during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal services.
April 12	International Day of Human Space Flight	The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed every year to mark the beginning of mankind's space era and to highlight the contribution of space science and technology.
April 13	38th Siachen Day	The day is observed to commemorate the courage of the Indian Army under "Operation Meghdoot".
April 13	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre 103rd Anniversary	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.
April 14	Ambedkar Jayanti	Ambedkar Jayanti (also known as Bhim Jayanti) is celebrated on 14 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar.
April 14	World Chagas Day	The day is observed every year to highlight the fatal disease that can lead to severe cardiac and digestive issues. Theme 2022 - "Finding and reporting every case to defeat Chagas

		disease”
April 15	Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day	In 1971, Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state in India with Shimla as its capital.
April 15	World Art Day	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.
April 15	Good Friday	The day marks the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.
April 16	Save the Elephant Day	Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16 every year to raise awareness about the dangers elephants face and the various difficulties they have to overcome to live.
April 16	World Voice Day	The day is observed to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people.
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	World Hemophilia Day 2022 Theme: "Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress".
April 18	World Heritage Day	The theme for World Heritage Day 2022 is "Heritage and Climate".
April 19	World Liver Day	World Liver Day is observed on 19 April annually to spread awareness about the causes of liver disease and tips for its prevention so as to take holistic care of the liver.
April 21	World Creativity and Innovation Day	The theme of World Creativity and Innovation Day 2022: Collaboration.

April 21	National Civil Services Day	India observes National Civil Services Day on April 21 every year to acknowledge the works of officers engaged in several public service departments in the country.
April 22	International Mother Earth Day	The theme of Earth Day 2022 is to 'Invest in our planet'.
April 23	English Language Day	The date happens to be the birth and death anniversary of well-known writer William Shakespeare.
April 24	National Panchayati Raj Day	National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year to mark the beginning of decentralised power through gram panchayats.
April 25	World Malaria Day	Theme 2022 - "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives".
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	The theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2022 is "IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future".
April 28	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	This year's theme of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work is "Participation And Social Dialogue In Creating A Positive Safety And Health Culture".
April 29	International Dance Day	The day celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals.
April 30	World Veterinary	The day aims to spread

	Day	awareness about animal health care and the steps one should undertake to curb animal cruelty. The theme for 2022 is 'Strengthening Veterinary Resilience'.
April 24 to 30	World Immunization Week	This year, the theme for World Immunization Week is "Long Life for All".

