

Weekly Current Affairs PDF APRIL 10 to APRIL 16, 2022

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INTERNATIONAL

Israel tests new laser-based air defence system 'Iron Beam'

- Israel successfully tested a new laser missile-defence system 'Iron Beam' which can destroy any airborne object including drones. Iron Beam is the world's first energy-based weapons system that uses a laser beam to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets, mortars, long-range missiles, anti-tank missiles etc. The Iron Beam which is developed by the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is using a directed-energy weapon system and can go a long way in providing aerial defence.
- Iron Beam works on a fibre laser system to destroy any airborne object.
- Iron Dome defense system has been a great success, with a 90% interception rate against incoming rocket fire.

NATIONAL

PM Modi inaugurates K K Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj, Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation, a 200-bed KK Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj in the Kutch district of Gujarat, via video-conferencing. This hospital has been built by Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj, Bhuj and is the first charitable super speciality hospital in the Kutch region.
- It will guarantee quality medical treatment for the people of Kutch including lakhs of soldiers, par military personnel and traders. This initiative is in line with the policy of the Central government to set up at least one medical college in every district of the country so that India gets a record number of doctors in the next 10 years.

'SVANidhi se Samridhi' launched in additional 126 cities

- In the presence of senior officials from States/UTs and several Central Ministries, Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), launched the 'SVANidhi se Samridhi' programme in an additional 126 cities across 14 States/UTs.
- PMSVANidhi's extra initiative, 'SVANidhi se Samridhi,' was launched in 125 cities in Phase 1 in 2021, covering around 35 lakh street vendors and their families. They have been given 22.5 lakh scheme sanctions, which include 16 lakh insurance benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and 2.7 lakh pension benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, among other things.
- Due to the success of Phase I, the MoHUA has expanded the programme to 126 cities, with the goal of covering 28 lakh street vendors and their families, with a total target of 20 lakh plan sanctions for FY 2022-23. The remaining cities would be added to the programme over time.

Tamil Nadu Will Celebrate April 14 As 'Equality Day' In Memory Of BR Ambedkar: CM Stalin

- Chief Minister MK Stalin announced in the Assembly that the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar (April 14) will be commemorated as 'Samathuva Naal' (Equality Day), and that a promise will be administered on that day, in accordance with Rule 110.

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

SPORTS

Naveen Patnaik unveils official logo of Odisha Hockey Mens World Cup 2023

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled the logo of the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga stadium in the capital Bhubaneswar. To be held in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, the prestigious quadrennial tournament is scheduled from January 13 to 29.
- Hockey India and its official partner Odisha will host the marquee event for the second consecutive time in the country after 2018. The 15th edition of the showpiece will be staged in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, where the country's largest hockey stadium is being constructed.

Tamil Nadu men beat Punjab to regain National Basketball Championship Title

- Tamil Nadu defeated defending champion Punjab 87-69 in the final to win the men's title in the 71st Senior National Basketball Championship. The formidable Indian Railways team won the women's title, beating Telangana 131-82 in convincing fashion, riding on Poonam Chaturvedi's 26 points.
- In the men's summit clash, Tamil Nadu pulled ahead after a slow start when Punjab kept pace and never looked back. At half-time, the host had widened the lead to 17 with a 50-33 scoreline. An Aravind with 26 points and M Arvind Kumar (21) were in the fine nick for the home team as they stamped their authority against their arch-rival.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Save the Elephant Day 2022 observed on 16th April

- 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. Save The Elephant Day aims to change this alarming trend by educating people about elephants and the plights they face, encouraging everyone to do their bit and helping save them from extinction.
- The Day is established by the Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, to spread awareness among the general people about the significance and consequences of their actions, or inactions on the future of elephants. According to WWF data, at present, the population of Pachyderms in India is around 20,000 to 25,000.

World Voice Day 2022 :16th April

- World Voice Day (WVD) is celebrated globally on April 16 every year. The day is observed to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. The Day is a

global annual event dedicated to recognizing the boundless limits of the human voice. The mission is to share the excitement of the voice phenomenon with people, scientists, and other funding bodies.

- This year, the theme of the World Voice Day campaign is 'Lift your voice'. The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) has put forward the motto of the campaign to highlight how maintaining a good quality of voice can improve communication skills.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Prabhat Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022

- Well-known Indian economist and political commentator, Prabhat Patnaik has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022. The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist selected from nominations received by a specially constituted national jury. The award includes a citation and prize money of Rs 2 lakh.
- Dr Patnaik has taught at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi and was the Vice Chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Govt enhances authorised share capital of three public sector general insurance companies

- Three public sector general insurance businesses – National Insurance Company Limited, Oriental Insurance Company Limited, and United India Insurance Company – have had their authorised share capital increased by the government. This will allow for a capital inflow of Rs. 5,000 crore into these businesses.
- The permitted capital for National Insurance will now be 15,000 crore (1,500 crore shares with a face value of 10 apiece), up from the current 7,500 crore, according to a notification released by the Finance Ministry (1,500 crore shares with a face value of ten each).
- Oriental Insurance would have a market capitalization of 7,500 crore (750 crore shares with a face value of ten rupees each), up from 5,000 crore (500 crore shares with a face value of ten rupees each).
- United India Insurance's permitted capital has been increased to Rs 7,500 crore.
- United India Insurance's authorised capital has been raised from 5,000 crore (500 crore shares with a face value of 10) to 7,500 crore (750 crore shares with a face value of 10).
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in her FY 2018-19 Budget speech that three public sector general insurance companies, National Insurance Company Ltd., United India Assurance Company Limited, and Oriental India Insurance Company Limited, would be merged into a single insurance entity and then listed.

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NATIONAL

Rongali Bohag Bihu Festival observed in Assam

- Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu, one of the biggest festivals of Assam, falls in the second week of April every year, marking the beginning of the harvest period. This year Bohag Bihu is being

observed from April 14 to April 16. Rongali means joy in Assamese and the festival indeed is the time to rejoice and make merry with family and community.

- The first day of the Hindu solar calendar is celebrated in the states of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Kerala, Manipur, and West Bengal among others with different names and traditions. Bihu is celebrated thrice a year; apart from Rongali or Bohag Bihu – Kati Bihu or Kongaali Bihu and Magh Bihu or Bhogali Bihu are celebrated to mark different stages of the harvesting period.

Govt of Uttarakhand will launch “Him Prahari” scheme for ex-servicemen & youngsters

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

SPORTS

Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath settles for Silver medal in Men’s Singles of Orleans Masters 2022 Badminton tournament

- Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath has won silver in Men’s Singles at the Orléans Masters 2022, a badminton tournament held from 29th March to 3rd April 2022 in Orleans, France. Playing in his maiden BWF final, the 79th ranked Indian shuttler lost 11-21, 19-21 to world number 32 Frenchman Toma Junior Popov at the Palais des Sports Arena. The women’s doubles pair of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam has won the bronze in the Women’s doubles at the tournament.

India to host Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

Himachal Pradesh statehood Day observed on 15th April

- Himachal Day is observed on the 15th of April in Himachal Pradesh. The state became a full-fledged state on this day. Four districts of Mandi, Chamba, Mahasu and Sirmour were integrated with over two dozen princely states, leading to the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a Union Territory in 1948. Decades later, in 1971, Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state in India with Shimla as its capital.

- It was on this day in 1948 that Himachal Pradesh was created as a province of India. The day is marked with a grand parade in the capital city of Shimla. Local events are also organised in the cities, towns, and villages to mark the day.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

Indo-French dialogue on bilateral defence cooperation concludes in Paris

- The 20th edition of the India-France Joint Staff talks focused on new initiatives within the framework of the existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism, as well as improving current defence engagements. The two-day talks took place in a nice, warm, and courteous setting in Paris. The Joint Staff Consultations between India and France are a forum intended to improve defence cooperation between the two countries through frequent talks at the operational and strategic levels.
- The 20th edition of Joint Talks between India and France ended with the goal of actively enhancing defence cooperation.
- The two-day meetings focused on new projects that come under the existing bilateral defence cooperation umbrella, as well as the enhancement of ongoing defence engagements between the two countries.

IIT Madras signs agreement with IAF to develop solutions to maintain weapon systems

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

VP presents International Gandhi Award for Leprosy

- Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy, 2021 to Dr Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh under the Indian nomination (individual) category and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat under the institutional category. The award was given during a function in New Delhi on April 13, 2022.
- Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust and Dr. Bhushan Kumar have been working round the clock to raise awareness regarding leprosy and the care that can be provided to those afflicted with this disease. They have also been working to remove the social stigmas that are associated with this disease.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches digital platform for business banking, corporate clients

- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has launched Kotak FYN, a new enterprise platform designed specifically for Business Banking and Corporate clients. Customers of the bank can utilise the portal to conduct all trade and service transactions.

- According to a press release, the Kotak FYN portal will contain many other services by the fourth quarter of 2022, including account services, payments, and collections.
- The portal will also have a dashboard that consumers can personalise, real-time tracking of transaction limits, access to prior transactions, and upcoming transaction events, among other things.
- It also promises to deliver a tailored experience in small steps with system stability.

World Bank cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 8% from 8.7% in FY23

- The World Bank has slashed the GDP growth forecast for India in FY2022/23 to 8 per cent in its bi-annual "South Asia Economic Focus" report, due to the negative impact of the war in Ukraine on FY23 growth. Earlier in January 2022, the growth forecast for FY23 was estimated at 8.7 per cent.
- The World Bank said a further escalation in the war in Ukraine could scare investors in emerging market securities and debt instruments and lead to a capital flight from South Asia to "safe havens" in the West.
- Foreign investors have already been exiting India's financial market since October 2021, due to the impending monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve. Recent developments in Eastern Europe have intensified the capital outflow, weakening the Indian rupee (INR).

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INTERNATIONAL

WTO slashes 2022 global trade growth forecast amid COVID

- The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has revised down its projection for global trade growth (in volume) for 2022 to 3 per cent. Earlier in October 2021, this was estimated at 4.7 per cent. The downward revision follows the Russia-Ukraine conflict that has impacted commodity prices, disrupted supplies and intensified geopolitical and economic uncertainty. For 2023, this merchandise trade volume growth is projected at 3.4%.
- In the longer term, the WTO said the conflict could even trigger the disintegration of the global economy into separate blocs. India's real GDP, in such a scenario, would falter by 9% (deviation from a baseline projection), China's by 7% and Russia's by as much as 10%, it added.

SPORTS

Victoria confirmed as 2026 Commonwealth Games host with regional centres to host most events

- In a deviation from the conventional single host city approach, the Commonwealth Games will be held in Victoria in 2026, with the majority of events being organised by the state's regional centres. In March 2026, the Games will be held in numerous towns and regional centres around Australia, including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Gippsland, each with its own athletes' village.
- The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) confirmed that the opening ceremony will be held at the famous 100,000-seat Melbourne Cricket Ground.

- Following an exclusive consultation session between the CGF, Commonwealth Games Australia (CGAus), and Victoria, the announcement was made.

Netherlands crowned FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup champions after beating Germany in final

- The Netherlands has lifted their fourth title of FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 after beating Germany at Potchefstroom, South Africa. The Netherlands is the most successful team. England claimed the bronze medal in the third-place match after defeating India by 3-0 in the shoot-out.
- The FIH has banned Russia from the 2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup due to 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. The 2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup will be the tenth edition and will be held in Santiago, Chile.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ambedkar Jayanti observed on 14th April 2022

- Ambedkar Jayanti (also known as Bhim Jayanti) is celebrated on 14 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar. The Day has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India since 2015. In 2022, we are marking the 131st birth anniversary of Babasaheb.
- Dr Ambedkar is known as the Father (chief architect) of the Indian Constitution. He was the first Law and Justice Minister of the country after the independence. Dr Bhim has been bestowed with the country's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna in 1990 posthumously.

World Chagas Disease Day 2022: 14th April

- World Chagas Disease Day is observed on 14 April to raise public awareness and visibility among people about Chagas Disease (also called American trypanosomiasis or silent or silenced disease) and the resources needed for the prevention, control or elimination of the disease. The theme for 2022 is finding and reporting every case to defeat chagas disease.
- It is often termed a "silent and silenced disease" as the infected majority have no symptoms or extremely mild symptoms. There are approximately 6-7 million people infected with Chagas disease worldwide, with 10,000 deaths, every year. It is one of 11 official global public health campaigns marked by WHO.

103 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre : 13 April 1919

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919. This year we commemorate the 103rd anniversary of the terror that shook the entire country to a standstill. The Jallianwalabagh garden has been converted into a memorial. And thousands of people on this day come to pay their respects to the martyred men, and women, who were killed on that fateful day for the nation.
- On 13 April 1919, thousands of people were gathered at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab. This day marks the beginning of New Year for the Sikhs and is also

celebrated as the Baisakhi festival all over Punjab. People travel days to reach Punjab on this auspicious day to celebrate Baisakhi with their family and loved ones.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

NMDC Wins two Awards at 80th SKOCH Summit 2022

- In the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards, held recently in New Delhi, India's largest iron ore producer, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), under the Ministry of Steel, received one gold and one silver medal. The SKOCH Summit's subject was 'State of BFSI & PSUs.'
- The project 'Promotion of Technical Education and Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi' got the Gold Award in the category social responsibility, and the project 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation earned the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion. Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance), accepted the honours on behalf of Chairman and Managing Director, Shri Sumit Deb, via video conference.
- The winners of the SKOCH Awards were chosen based on an application submitted on their website, a jury presentation, three rounds of popular online vote, and a second round of jury evaluation.

Bharat Petroleum partners with Microsoft to step up digital transformation

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), an Indian oil refinery, has teamed with Microsoft to improve its customer experience. It will also integrate cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) to help the oil and gas business adapt digitally. Microsoft will supply BPCL with infrastructure-as-a-service, platform-as-a-service, and cloud network and security services over the course of the seven-year partnership.
- BPCL plans to employ Microsoft's secure cloud platform to accelerate its cloud transformation, create smarter supply chains, and improve customer engagement. BPCL will also make use of Microsoft Teams and other productivity tools to improve employee communication.

UNDP announces \$2.2 million in climate action grants for innovators

- The UNDP and partners of the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM) have announced \$2.2 million in climate action funding for 22 local innovators from 19 countries, including India. The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) window's first round of funding will improve local climate action and speed the achievement of the Paris Agreement's and Sustainable Development Goals' ambitions.
- The project enables local actors and contributes to UNDP's and partners' worldwide endorsement of the principles for locally driven adaptation action.
- The Adaptation Innovation Marketplace will provide technical support and know-how for new funding applications launched.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Falguni Nayar Wins EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2021

- Falguni Nayar has been named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021, at the 23rd edition of the EY Entrepreneur of The Year India awards. She is the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of beauty supply company Nykaa (FSN E-commerce). She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on June 9, 2022, at Monaco. The Lifetime Achievement was given to A. M. Naik, Group Chairman of Larsen & Toubro.

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NATIONAL

Amit Shah inaugurated the "Amrit Samagam"

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

SPORTS

First Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament to be held in Jamshedpur

- The first Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery will be held in Tata Archery Academy, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved Rs 75 Lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases.
- The tournament will be conducted as per the World Archery Rules, held in the senior, Junior, and Cadet Categories across the Recurve and Compound events. The Archery Association of India (AAI), in collaboration with the Jharkhand Archery Association and TATA Steel, is organizing the tournament.
- The Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament, now, will provide more competition and exposure at domestic levels for second, third and fourth lines of Archers, in line with Women Empowerment. This will also help to provide them exposure to matches to develop their mental toughness and competitiveness.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Microplastics in Cauvery river may be harming fish: IISc study

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

NASA Data on India's Space Debris

- According to the most recent report of NASA's Orbital Debris Program Office's Orbital Debris Quarterly News, there are 25,182 pieces of space debris larger than 10 cm in lower earth orbits near 2,000 kilometres of the planet's surface. India is responsible for only 114 space debris items, whereas the United States has 5,126 space debris objects in Earth's orbit and China has 3,854 space debris objects in Earth's orbit, including spent rocket bodies.
- According to the research, India's space debris levels have returned to those of 2018, following a rise in 2019 when the country conducted its first-ever anti-satellite test.
- Any man-made object in earth orbit that no longer serves a useful purpose is referred to as space debris, or space garbage. Space debris can be large items, such as failed satellites that have been left in orbit, or small objects, such as bits of debris or paint flecks that have fallen off a rocket. This debris can range in size from a leftover rocket stage to a minuscule paint speck. Much of the junk is in low Earth orbit, close to the Earth's surface.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Foreign secretary Shringla may be named India's G20 chief coordinator

- Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will take over next month as G20 chief coordinator, the government officially announced. The appointment is significant as India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- Shringla will retire on 30th April 2022, handing over charge to foreign secretary-designate V M Kwatra, who is currently India's ambassador to Nepal. The G20 sherpa will remain to be Piyush Goyal, the Indian Commerce Minister.
- G20 Bali Summit 2022 is the 17th meeting of the G20 Heads of State and Government Summit which is scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia from November 15-16, 2022 under the Presidency of Indonesia with the overall theme of "Recover Together Recover Stronger".

Jay Shah appointed as Member Board Representative of ICC Cricket Committee

- Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, has been appointed to the ICC Cricket Committee as a Member Board Representative, while Mahela Jayawardene has been reappointed as the Past Player Representative. Other important decisions were also made at the ICC Board Meeting in Dubai. The CEC agreed, in keeping with a recent suggestion by the ICC Men's Cricket Committee, that when travel limitations are eased, more neutral match officials should be used, building on the success of the employment of local umpires.
- In Tests, one neutral and one home umpire will be permitted beginning in the 2022-23 season, while home umpires will be permitted in ODIs and T20s.
- Based on the recent decision to increase the ICC Women's Championship to ten teams, the ICC Board approved a recommendation that Associate Member women's teams be granted ODI status, allowing them to compete in global qualifying events based on ODI rankings.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

PM Modi to receive first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for selfless service to nation, society

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award which is instituted in the memory of the veteran singer of Lata Mangeshkar. PM Modi will receive the award for selfless service to the nation and society. The award ceremony will be held on April 24 which marks the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar (singing legend's father).
- Among the other awardees will be singer Rahul Deshpande, who will receive the Master Deenanath Award besides three other special awardees including veteran actress Asha Parekh, actor Jackie Shroff and the Mumbai Dabbawalas, represented by Nutan Tiffin Suppliers.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India's gold imports surge to \$46.14 bn in FY22 on higher demand

- According to the official data, the import of gold in India has been rose by 33.34% to Rs 46.14 billion on account of higher demand in 2021-22. The import of gold in 2020-21 was about Rs 34.62 billion. The increase in gold imports has contributed to the widening of the trade deficit to \$192.41 billion, against \$102.62 billion in 2020-21.
- India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China. The imports are largely driven by the jewellery industry. The export of gems and jewellery grew by about 50% to about \$39 billion during 2021-22.

ADB to provide \$2 million for urban infrastructure development in Nagaland

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed an agreement to provide a \$2 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan to Nagaland for the design of climate-resilient urban infrastructure, strengthening institutional capacity, and improving municipal resource mobilisation.

- According to a statement released by ADB, Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, who signed for the Government of India, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, who signed for ADB, were the signatories to the project readiness financing (PRF) for the proposed Nagaland Urban Infrastructure Development Project.
- By establishing an urban sector plan, conducting feasibility studies, and comprehensive engineering designs of chosen subprojects, the ADB financing will ensure high project readiness.
- The PRF loan will be used to help construct climate resilient water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, and urban highways in Nagaland's 16 district headquarter towns, as well as better access for the poor and vulnerable.

Bank of Maharashtra to divest entire 4% stake in ISARC

- Bank of Maharashtra announced that it will sell its entire 4% ownership in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company for almost Rs 4 crore. According to a regulatory statement, the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has entered a share purchase agreement for the sale of the entire equity position of 4% in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (ISARC).
- The bank's 4% stake, which translates to 40,00,000 equity shares, would be sold for Rs 9.80 per share for Rs 3.92 crore in cash.
- The sale of ISARC's interest is subject to RBI approval for a change in ISARC's sponsor shareholder. By the end of December 2022, the transaction should be closed.
- ISARC's overall revenue for the fiscal year ended March 2021 was Rs 11.09 crore, with a net profit of Rs 0.36 crore.

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INTERNATIONAL

Joint Statement on the Fourth India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

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

NATIONAL

PM Modi to Virtually Address Umiya Mata Temple's Foundation Day Celebrations in Gujarat on Sunday

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the Umiya Mata Temple, a religious site in Gujarat's Junagadh, has now become a central focus for social consciousness. He explained that the temple helps the underprivileged members of the community by providing free health treatment as well as religious and social activities.
- On Ramnavami, Prime Minister Modi was virtually speaking at the 14th foundation day festivities of Umiya Mata Temple in Junagadh. Mr Modi also presided over the temple's inauguration in 2008, when he was Gujarat's, Chief Minister.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to practise natural farming for the sake of future generations. He stated that we should not exploit our homeland for personal gain.
- He emphasised that just as we understand the necessity of water conservation, we must also realise the importance of preserving and nurturing our motherland through natural farming.

President of India Inaugurates Madhavpur Ghed Fair in Gujarat

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

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Indo-Pak border viewing point in Banaskantha district of Gujarat

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

- The idea to develop another border viewing point for tourists was mooted when Vijay Rupani was chief minister of Gujarat in 2018. It took three years for the state government to develop the point.

SPORTS

Indian All-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin becomes 1st player to get retired out in IPL

History

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IIT Madras Researchers Launch India's First Polycentric Prosthetic Knee

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, have unveiled India's first Polycentric Prosthetic Knee, which seeks to improve the conditions for thousands above the amputees. 'Kadam,' a polycentric knee for above Knee Prosthesis created in collaboration with Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India, and is also a 'Made in India' product.
- Above-knee amputees can now walk with a natural gait thanks to Kadam. It not only attempts to improve users' mobility, but also their quality of life by increasing community participation, access to education, livelihood opportunities, and overall well-being.
- It was created by a team at IIT Madras' TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2), which also created and commercialised the country's first standing wheelchair, 'Arise,' and the NeoFly-NeoBolt: active wheelchair and motorised add-on for seamless indoor-outdoor mobility.
- R2D2 is active in human movement research, as well as the design and development of rehabilitative and assistive equipment for persons who have movement disabilities.

Indian Coast Guard Commissions Advanced Light Helicopter MK III Squadron

- Two Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters Mark-III were inducted into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The choppers will be based out of Kochi's Coast Guard Aviation Squadron. These choppers were the ninth and tenth in a series of 16 ALH.
- HAL is building and delivering helicopters to the Coast Guard at four bases: Porbandar, Bhubaneswar, Kochi, and Chennai.

- Two ICG facilities in Bhubaneswar and Porbandar have already received eight helicopters.
- The Indian Coast Guard bought these ALH MK III helicopters for a variety of operations, including maritime surveillance, search and rescue, medical evacuation, ship logistical support, and interdiction, making ALH the ideal flying vehicle for specialised missions.

Second flight test of anti-tank guided missile Helina successful

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

56th Jnanpith Award presented to Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan

- Assam Chief Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma presented the country's highest literary award, the 56th Jnanpith for the year 2021 to one of the most celebrated poets of Assam, Nilamani Phookan. Nilmani Phookan is the third person to win the Jnanpith Award from Assam after Mamoni Roisom Goswami and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya. The Award carried a Citation, a shawl, and Rs. 11 lakh.
- The octogenarian was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2002. He was selected as an 'Emeritus Fellow' for a period of two years by Cultural Department, Govt. of India in 1998. Assam Sahitya Sabha also conferred 'Sahityacharya' honour to him. The notable works of Phukan are 'Xurjya Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita' and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'.
- Novelist Damodar Mauzo was chosen for the 57th Jnanpith Award 2022 for his contribution to Indian literature. The 77-year-old writer was conferred with the country's highest literary award for his "outstanding contribution to literature".

RANKING

Gujarat tops NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index Round 1

- NITI Aayog has launched the State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I. The State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely, (1) DISCOM's Performance (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy (3) Clean Energy Initiatives (4) Energy Efficiency (5) Environmental Sustainability; and (6) New Initiatives.
- These parameters are further divided into 27 indicators. Based on the composite score of SECI Round I, the states and UTs have been ranked as larger states, smaller states, and UTs, based on size and geographical differences. States and UTs are categorized into three groups: Front Runners, Achievers, and Aspirants.

Top Three States

- Gujarat
- Kerala
- Punjab

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NATIONAL

Tamil Nadu: CM M K Stalin inaugurates Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram

- K. Stalin, the Deputy Chief Minister, launched a Periyar memorial samathuvapuram at Pilipakuttai in Namagiripettai panchayat union. Allottees were given the keys at the function. 100 dwelling units with all basic amenities were built at the cost of 2 crores 88 lakh rupees. Stalin, who gave Rs. 30.42 crore in financial assistance and other benefits to 2,671 Namakkal residents, said that the current administration has issued loans totalling Rs. 8,080 crore to 3,24,024 women self-help groups across the state.
- Stalin promised that all 1,601 developmental works under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam will be finished shortly after laying the foundation for them at a cost of Rs. 19.32 crore.
- In addition, Mr. Stalin dedicated 7,392 works that had been completed under various projects.
- He had previously opened and handed over the key to a house built under the Kalaingar Housing Scheme in Iyampalayam hamlet near Namakkal.

Kangra tea likely to get EU GI tag

- 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.
- The development and cultivation of Kangra tea is being promoted and looked after by four departments iTea Board of India Regional office Palampur, cooperative and agriculture departments of the state and CSIR, IHBT Palampur and Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agriculture University, Palampur.

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhami launches anti-corruption mobile app

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched an anti-corruption mobile app named 1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App. This mobile application has been developed by the vigilance department, Uttarakhand. It helps the citizens to lodge corruption-related complaints directly with the authorities.
- Currently, the app is available in both Hindi and English language. Registered complaints, data and the identity of the complainant will be protected. Government is committed to making the state corruption-free and ensuring that governance in the state is carried out in a transparent manner.

South-Central Railway launches 'One station One Product' initiative at 6 major stations

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

SPORTS

Thailand Open boxing: Amit Panghal, Ashish Kumar win silver as India bag 10 medals

- The 15-member Indian boxing contingents ended their campaign at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022 in Phuket with 10 medals, including three golds, four silvers, and three bronze. Gold medal winners earned USD 2000 while silver and bronze medallists took home USD 1000 and USD 500 respectively as the tournament witnessed thrilling competition with the participation of 130 top boxers including 74 males and 56 females, from Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa.

Medal Winners :

Gold

1. Govind Sahani (48kg),
2. Ananta Pralhad Chopde (54kg)
3. Sumit (75kg)

Silver

1. Amit Panghal (52kg)
2. Monika (48kg),
3. Varinder Singh (60kg)
4. Ashish Kumar (81kg)

Bronze

1. Manisha (57kg),
2. Pooja (69kg)
3. Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg)

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Dr Manoj Soni is the 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. He has been associated with the Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission, at Mogri in Anand district, since a young age and received diksha (initiation) as a nishkarma karmayogi (selfless worker) on Jan 10, 2020.

- Dr Soni has been appointed to replace the previous UPSC chairman Pradip Kumar Joshi. Prior to this assignment, Soni has also served as the vice-chancellor of two universities and has earned several national and international awards and recognitions.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

ISRO tieup with UIDAI for technical collaboration

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Veteran Bengali Author Amar Mitra Wins Prestigious O. Henry Award For 45 Year Old Story

- Veteran Bengali author Amar Mitra was awarded this year's O.Henry prize for a short story he wrote 45 years back. He bagged the award for his short story titled 'Gaonburo'- a Bengali short fiction, which was translated into English (The Old Man Of Kusumpur) earlier. The translated work was published in an American magazine in 2020. Mitra was awarded the Sahitya Academy award in 2006.
- Mitra was born in Kolkata and is a well-known writer of Bengali literature. He spent some of his childhood in the districts of Bengal where he came across the Adivasi culture and their struggle. This is the background to Mitra's award-winning story.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

IndusInd Bank's 'Indus Merchant Solutions' App wins big at the Digital CX Awards 2022

- 'Indus Merchant Solutions', a mobile app for merchants of IndusInd Bank, got the Digital CX Awards 2022 for 'Outstanding Digital CX – SME Payments'. The Digital CX Awards is organized by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider. Indus Merchant Solutions being adjudged as a winner is a testament to its strength in offering customers a seamless banking experience, which aligns with the Bank's ethos of 'customer-centricity'.
- 'Indus Merchant Solutions' was launched in November 2021. It is a mobile application (app) to enable merchants, retailers, and professionals to various facilities such as Accepting instant cashless payments through multiple digital modes, Tracking inventory via in-built dashboards, Apply for an exclusive Point of Sale (POS) machine to facilitate card-based payments, Avail small ticket business loans from the Bank, etc.
- The Digital CX Awards is organised by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider that recognises the world's leading Financial Services

Organisations (FSO) that blend the best of technology, and innovation, with the power of their people to provide a superior customer experience and reinvent their industry. This year, the awards received over 600 submissions from 127 marquee FSOs across the globe.

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INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lanka to suspend foreign debt payments

- Anger over Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's handling of the island nation's mounting economic crisis degenerated into violence, with hundreds of protestors clashing with police for several hours. Due to a significant lack of foreign money, Rajapaksa's government has been unable to pay for basic imports, like as fuel, resulting in power outages lasting up to 13 hours. After the country depreciated its currency last month ahead of talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan programme, ordinary Sri Lankans are also suffering with shortages and rising inflation.
- According to critics, the foundation of the crisis, which is the worst in decades, is economic mismanagement by successive governments, which established and maintained a dual deficit – a budget deficit as well as a current account deficit
- According to a working paper published by the Asian Development Bank in 2019, Sri Lanka is a classic twin deficits economy.

NATIONAL

Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition Rocket Systems successfully flight-tested by DRDO & Indian Army

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Army successfully flight-tested a new version of the Pinaka rocket system at the Pokhran firing ranges. These included Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems. With these trails, the initial phase of technology absorption of EPRS by the industry has successfully been completed and the industry partners are ready for user trials/series production of the rocket system.
- The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by DRDO lab- Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.

SPORTS

Charles Leclerc wins Australian F1 GP

- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari- Monaco) has won the Formula One (F1) 2022 Australian Grand Prix, held on 10 April 2022 in Melbourne, Victoria. It was the third round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship. Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Racing-RBPT – Mexico) came second while George Russell (Mercedes – Britain) came third.

- Verstappen was on course for second place when his car failed with 18 laps to go. The second Red Bull of Sergio Perez finished second, ahead of the Mercedes of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton.

World Doubles Squash C'ship: Dipika Pallikal, Saurav Ghosal, Joshna Chinappa lead India to two golds

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Homeopathy Day 2022: 10th April 2022

- World Homeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to spread awareness about homoeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann. Hahnemann, born in Paris in 1755, founded this branch of medicine and is considered the father of Homeopathy.
- This year, the theme for World Homeopathy Day 2022 in India is 'People's Choice For Wellness.' The theme, like every year, is decided by the Ministry of AYUSH. On this day, a documentary made on Homeopathy, its benefits, and its contribution to medicine, will be released.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Chairs 20th NTCA Meeting at Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh

- The 20th NTCA in Arunachal Pradesh is chaired by Bhupender Yadav. The 20th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held in Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh and was led by Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- The first-ever NTCA meeting was held in Arunachal Pradesh, outside of the National Capital.
- He also released a technical manual on MEE of Tiger Reserves in India, as well as standard operating procedures for tiger reintroduction and supplementation in the wild, a forest fire audit protocol for tiger reserves, and a standard operating procedure for tiger reintroduction and supplementation in the wild.

Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates two-day scientific convention on 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness'

- The Union Minister of AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated a two-day scientific convention on the theme 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness' in New Delhi. The convention has been organised jointly by the three apex bodies under the Ministry of Ayush namely, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, the National Commission for Homoeopathy and the National Institute of Homoeopathy to mark the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day.
- This convention is an opportunity to review the achievements in the field of Homoeopathy and to formulate future strategies for the development of Homoeopathy.
- There is an imminent need to initiate a dialogue among the major stakeholders of Homoeopathy to address much-needed practice standards in clinical research informatics, data standards in clinical research, policy issues, educational standards, and instructional resources.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

VP Naidu confers Sangeet Natak Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi awards

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Establishment of Digital Banking Units (DBUs)

- The Reserve Bank of India announced that current banks can open digital banking units to provide products and services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in both self-serve and assisted modes. The government announced in the Union Budget that at least 75 such units will be established in 75 districts to commemorate the country's 75th anniversary of independence as the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The products and services to be supplied at a DBU, according to the requirements for the formation of Digital Banking Units (DBUs), include account opening, cash withdrawal and deposit, KYC updation, loans, and complaint registrations.
- Scheduled commercial banks with digital banking experience are allowed to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres without obtaining RBI clearance, according to the guidelines.
- Each DBU must be housed separately, with its own entry and exit points. According to the recommendations, these units would be different from conventional banking outlets and will have forms and designs that are most ideal for digital banking consumers.