Current Events

April 2022

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The download for Current Affairs for Recruitment Test (RTs) exams of UPSC, including ALC, LEO, APFC, EPFO EO/AO, Admin Officer, Store Officer, Deputy Director, and Investigator Grade-I is available.

The Current Events are tailored to the latest RTs trends and requirements of UPSC. To optimize exam performance, focus on the following key points:

- Cover current events from the past 18 months only, up to the date of the exam. For periodic events, such as the Budget, Economic Survey, Nobel Prize, or Tournaments, refer to only the latest ones. For instance, for an April 2023 exam, study the 2023 budget, not the 2022 budget.
- The UPSC RT exam is factual, so don't delve into details or implications.
- The Return on Investment (ROI) for studying current affairs is generally low. Therefore, devote an appropriate amount of time to them while prioritizing other topics that have a higher ROI. For instance, studying 100 pages of current affairs may result in solving only 5 questions, while studying 100 pages of polity could yield 14-15 questions.
- A few questions will always be unsolvable, no matter how much you've studied. Don't get discouraged by them, as they won't affect your selection.
- Based on experience, you can expect to answer approximately 60-70% of question in exam, from these concise current affairs booklets.
- Current Affairs for UPSC RT exams are purely factual, so self-study is better than coaching classes. In fact, coaching classes are counterproductive, as a teacher may only cover 10 events in 60 minutes, while you can cover 35-40 events in the same time frame.

Finally, note that these files are specifically prepared for RT exams of UPSC and should not be used for Civil Services Preliminary exam (GS Paper 1).

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1. Sports and Games

Khelo India University Games 2021 Official mascot and Jersey
Khelo India University Games 2021 was held in Karnataka. Government also launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the Games. The event was the 2nd edition of KIUG after Odisha hosted the Khelo India University Games in 2020.

Notable Points
- Official mascot of the games – Veera
- Anthem song composer – Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty
- Anthem - sung by Chandan Shetty and Nikhil Joshi.
- New – introduction of Yogasana and Mallakhamb in the competition category

Note – Khelo India Youth Games (scheduled to be held in June 2022 in Haryana) mascot: Dhakad' (*a Cow*)

Australia won ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022
Australia has won the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup after beating England at Hagley Oval in Christchurch (New Zealand) winning their 7th title.

The Player of the Tournament (also Player of the Match) went to Alyssa Healy. Sophie Ecclestone of England was the leading wicket-taker in the tournament (21 wickets).

It was the 12th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup.

Miami Open Tennis Tournament 2022
The 2022 Miami Open tennis tournament was the 37th edition of the Men's and Women's event, held in Miami Gardens, Florida.

List of winners of Tournament
Men's single: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Women's single: Iga Świątek (Poland)
Men's double: Hubert Hurkacz / John Isner
Women's double: Laura Siegemund / Vera Zvonareva

The Miami Open, also known as the Miami Masters, is one of the most prestigious tournaments on the tennis calendar aside from the 4 Grand Slams.

Wisden's 5 'Cricketers of the Year'
India captain Rohit Sharma and bowler Jasprit Bumrah are named among the "Five Cricketers of the Year" for 2022 by the Wisden Almanack.

The Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World is an annual cricket award selected by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. It was established in 2004, to select the best cricketer based upon their performances anywhere in the world in the previous calendar year.

FIFA World Cup 2022 to be hosted by Qatar
Qatar will be hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Official Mascot: *La'eeb* (Arabic word that means super-skilled player)

Note that India's Ed-tech company BYJU's becomes the first Indian sponsor of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

National Table Tennis Championship 2022
The 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022 was held in SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong Meghalaya.

Mixed Doubles Squash Championship 2022.
Dipika Pallikal in partnership and Saurav Ghosal has won the Mixed Doubles Squash Championship 2022 held in Glasgow, Scotland. They have defeated Adrian Waller and Alison Waters from England.

Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022
15 Indian boxers have won 10 medals in Open International Boxing Tournament 2022. It was held in Phuket. The medals include 3 golds, 4 silvers and 3 bronze. Govind Sahani, Ananta Pralhad Chopde and Sumit have won gold medals.

Khelo India National Ranking Archery Tournament
First Khelo India National Ranking Archery Tournament took place in Tata Archery Academy, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand).

Rohit Sharma scored 10000 runs
Rohit Sharma has become the second Indian after Virat Kohli to score 10,000 runs in the T20 cricket. He achieved this milestone during the IPL 2022 match of Mumbai Indians against Punjab Kings in Pune.

Commonwealth Games 2026 to be held in Victoria, Australia
Commonwealth Games 2026 will be held in Victoria State of Australia.

The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. The event was first held in 1930, and, with the exception of 1942 and 1946, has taken place every 4 years since then.

Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023
Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023 will be hosted by India. This world cup will be held in September ahead of the ICC World Cup, and street children and young people take part in a mixed-gender cricket tournament. It will be organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India.

Senior National Basketball Championship
Tamil Nadu has won the men's title in the 71st Senior National Basketball Championship after defeating Punjab.

Indian Railways team has won the women's title after beating Telangana.

Senior Men's National Hockey Championship
Haryana has won Senior Men's National Hockey Championship by defeating Tamil Nadu. The 12th Men's hockey tournament was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Asian Wrestling Championship
Sunil Kumar, Arjun Halakurki, and Neeraj has won bronze in Asian Wrestling Championship held in Mangolia.

Asia Badminton Championships 2022
P.V. Sindhu has won bronze medal in the Asia Badminton Championships 2022 held in Philippines.

2. Science and Technology

What is Aurora?
Stunning aurora glow was observed above Iceland after a 'dead' sunspot erupted.

An *Aurora* is a display of light in the sky predominantly seen in the high latitude regions (Arctic and Antarctic). It is also known as a Polar light.

There are 2 types – aurora borealis and aurora australis – often called the northern lights and southern lights. They origin at altitudes of 100 to more than 400 km.

What is colour blindness?
The Supreme Court has directed the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) not to exclude candidates suffering from colour blindness from its courses on film making and editing and asked it to make changes to its curriculum instead.

Colour blindness, also known as colour deficiency, is the inability to see colours in the normal way. Colour blind individuals often cannot distinguish between certain colours — usually greens and reds, and sometimes blues as well.

2 types of cells in the retina detect light — the "rods", which distinguish between light and dark, and the "cones" that detect colour. There are 3 types of cones that see colour — red, green, and blue — and our brains use the information from these cells to perceive colour. Colour blindness can be the result of the absence of one or more of these cone cells, or their failure to work properly.

Film Television Institute of India is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is situated on the premises of the erstwhile Prabhat Film Company in Pune. It was established in 1960.

Microsoft introduced cybersecurity skills development campaign
Microsoft has introduced a cybersecurity skills development campaign in 23 geographies, including India, to address the alarming shortage of internet security professionals. Microsoft is also unveiling a new partnership with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to develop a detailed study on the skills gap in these countries and also to improve the ability to grow cybersecurity workforces through postsecondary education and training.

India's nodal cybersecurity agency – CERT-In
CERT-In is an organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology with the objective of securing Indian cyberspace. It was established in 2004. It is the nodal agency which deals with cybersecurity threats like hacking and phishing.

India carried out successful test firing of HELINA – Anti-Tank Guided Missile
India has carried out a successful test firing of the HELINA anti-tank guided missile from the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter in high altitude areas of Ladakh. The flight-test was jointly conducted by the teams of scientists from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF). The missile is guided by an Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) Seeker operating in the Lock on Before Launch mode. It has a maximum range of 7 kilometers.

Enhanced Pinaka Mk-I Rocket System successfully test fired
The Enhanced Pinaka Mk-I Rocket System (EPRS) was successfully test fired in the Pokhran range in Rajasthan.

The EPRS is the upgraded version of the Pinaka variant that has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The design and development have been carried out by Pune-based DRDO laboratories – Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL). The upgrades include advanced technologies enhancing the range to meet the emerging requirements of the battlefield. While the Mark-1 has a range of 38 km, the enhanced version of Mark-1 tested in the last fortnight has a range of 45 km with some key additional features. The Pinaka rocket system is a multi-barrel rocket system, which is named after Lord Shiva's bow.

CALM: Cannister Launched Anti-Armour Loiter Ammunition
The Army has issued a Request for Information for the Cannister Launched Anti-Armour Loiter Ammunition (CALM) System. The Army has specified that it intends to procure 150 such systems.

The CALM System is a pre-loaded canister with loiter ammunition or a drone which once fired can remain aloft for a period of time over the area of operation, and when a target is sighted it can be guided down to destroy the target with the explosive payload that it carries.

Indian Navy inducted 6ᵗʰ Scorpene Submarine – Vagsheer
India has enhanced its navy power as it inducts its 6ᵗʰ Scorpene submarine 'Vagsheer' at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. Vagsheer is named after the sand fish, a deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.

Vagsheer, the 6ᵗʰ submarine of the P75 project of the Indian Navy, is the last of the Scorpene class submarines made under the P75 project. The first of the Project–75 submarines 'INS Kalvari' was commissioned into the Navy in December 2017. The second one 'INS Khanderi' got inducted in 2019, 'INS Karanj' in 2021, and 'INS Vela' in November 2021. The 5ᵗʰ submarine 'Vagir' (launched in November 2020) is progressing with the Sea Trials and is likely to be delivered this year.

The Indian Navy presently has 16 conventional submarines in service, which include 8 Russian Kilos, 4 German HDWs and 4 Scorpenes, and indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine 'INS Arihant'.

Indian Coast Guard Inducts New Vessel – Urja Pravaha
The Indian Coast Guard Ship (Auxiliary Barge) named 'Urja Pravaha' has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Gujarat's Bharuch. It is designed to carry Cargo Ship Fuel, Aviation Fuel and Fresh Water. The ship will enhance the desired logistics support for ships deployed at far-flung areas in the Maritime Operational area including EEZ and Lakshadweep/ Minicoy islands.

Indigo becomes first airline in Asia to use indigenous navigation system – GAGAN
IndiGo has become the first airline in the country to land aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN at the Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) said the successful trial was a great achievement and a major milestone in the field of Air Navigation Services (ANS) in the history of the country's civil aviation sector. India is the first country in Asia Pacific Region to achieve such milestone. GAGAN is used to provide lateral and vertical guidance when an aircraft is approaching a runway for landing. Its precision is especially useful at small airports where the instrument landing system (ILS) has not been installed.
GAGAN: *GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation*

The system has been developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). India becomes the third country in the world to have its own SBAS system after the USA and Japan.

3. Environment

IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report 3rd Report released
The third part of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report was released. The first part of the report was released in August 2021. That one was centred around the scientific basis of climate change. The second part of the report is about climate change impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and adaptation options released in March 2022. The third and final part of the report is focused on looking into the possibilities of reducing emissions.

The Assessment Reports, the first of which had come out in 1990, are the most comprehensive evaluations of the state of the earth's climate. IPCC reports form the scientific basis on which countries across the world build their policy responses to climate change.

India's First Pure Green Hydrogen Plant
Oil India Limited (OIL) has commissioned India's First 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant, with an installed capacity of 10 kg per day at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam. The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyzer array. The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.

MoEF&CC launches Prakriti mascot for eliminating single-use plastic
In another step toward eliminating single-use plastic, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched "Prakriti", a mascot to spread greater awareness about small changes that can be sustainably adopted in the lifestyle for a better environment. The mascot will also inform people about various green initiatives taken by several ministries to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.

NITI Aayog launches State Energy and Climate Index
NITI Aayog has launched the State Energy and Climate Index (SECI). It is the first index that aims to track the efforts made by States and UTs in the climate and energy sector

Performance of various States
- Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab have been ranked as the top 3 performers in the category of larger States, while Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were the bottom 3 States.
- Goa emerged as the top performer in the smaller States category followed by Tripura and Manipur.
- Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli are the top performers.
- Punjab was the best performer in DISCOM performance, while Kerala topped in access, affordability and reliability category.
- Haryana was the best performer in clean energy initiative among larger States and Tamil Nadu in the energy efficiency category.

What are Flexible Fuel Vehicles (FFVs)?
The Indian Sugar Mills Association has called for a faster launch of Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) to achieve 20 % of ethanol blending.

Flexible Fuel Vehicles (FFVs): An FFV is a modified version of vehicles that could run both on gasoline and doped petrol with different levels of ethanol blends. FFVs will allow vehicles to use all the blends and also run-on unblended fuel. FFVs have compatible engines to run on more than 84 % ethanol blended petrol.

Ammonia in Delhi Water supply
Water supply was disrupted in parts of Delhi when ammonia levels in the Yamuna River remained high. The acceptable maximum limit of ammonia in drinking water, as per the Bureau of Indian Standards, is 0.5 ppm.

Ammonia is a colourless gas and is used as an industrial chemical in the production of fertilisers, plastics, synthetic fibres, dyes and other products. It consists of hydrogen and nitrogen. In its aqueous form, it is called ammonium hydroxide. This inorganic compound has a pungent smell. Ammonia occurs naturally in the environment from the breakdown of organic waste matter. It is lighter than air.

What is carbon pricing?
Pennsylvania has become the first major fossil fuel-producing State in the USA to adopt a carbon pricing policy to address climate change.

Carbon pricing is an instrument that captures the external costs of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and ties them to their sources through a price usually in the form of a price on the Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emitted. These GHG emissions include the costs of emissions that the public pays for, such as damage to crops, health care costs from heatwaves and droughts, and loss of property from flooding and sea-level rise. A price on carbon helps shift the burden for the damage from GHG emissions back to those who are responsible for it and who can avoid it.

There are 2 main types of carbon pricing namely:
1. *Emission Trading System (ETS):* It is a system where emitters can trade emission units to meet their emission targets.
2. *Carbon Tax:* It directly sets a price on carbon by defining a tax rate on greenhouse gas emissions or – more commonly – on the carbon content of fossil fuels.

Different approaches adopted by countries to address climate change:
1. *Social Cost of Carbon:* The United States has adopted a less direct approach known as the Social Cost of Carbon. This approach calculates future climate damages to justify tougher restrictions on polluting industries.
2. *Carbon Pricing approach:* On the other hand, countries like Canada have adopted a Carbon Pricing approach. For example, Canada imposes fuel charges on individuals and also makes big polluters pay for emissions. It's one of 27 nations with some kind of carbon tax.

Twitter's new policy on climate change denial ads
Social media company Twitter has announced that it will prohibit misleading advertisements on climate change. By misleading, Twitter means ads that "contradict" the scientific consensus on climate change. It is an attempt to curb climate change disinformation campaigns on its network.

Palli in Jammu becomes India's first carbon-neutral Panchayat
Palli village in Jammu's Samba district has become the country's first Panchayat to become carbon neutral, fully powered by solar energy and with all its records digitised and saturation of benefits of all the Central schemes.

Gujarat Gets India's First Portable Solar Rooftop System
The country's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujrat. The installation of 10 PV Port systems in the temple complex has been supported by the German development agency 'Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)'. Designed by

GIZ, the PV Port systems are standard plug and play photovoltaic systems of a minimum of 2 kWp that come with or without battery storage.

The systems have been installed under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's initiative to develop renewable energy cities across India.

4. Schemes and Programmes

Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana
The youth, owing to their educational backwardness, are finding difficulties to obtain employment with good compensation after undergoing short-term skilling courses. In this background, the government has highlighted the need for and significance of Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi scheme.

PM-DAKSH scheme was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) in 2020-21. It is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers. It aims to improve all-round competency & adeptness of these persons over the next 5 years, beginning with nearly 0.5 lakh youth in the first year i.e., 2021-22. It is a multi-pronged strategy to enhance the competency level of the target groups and make them employable both in wage and Self-employment for their socio-economic development.

Mid-day Meal Scheme
From the next academic session, Karnataka is likely to become the 13th State to provide eggs under the Mid-day Meal Scheme.
The Mid Day Meal scheme (MDMS) emerged out of the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP – NSPE), a centrally sponsored scheme formulated in 1995 to improve enrollment, attendance and retention by providing free food grains to government run primary schools. In 2002, the Supreme Court directed the government to provide cooked mid-day meals (as opposed to providing dry rations) in all government and government aided primary schools. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Education (erstwhile HRD).

Note that in October 2021, Government has given approval for a new scheme named Prime Minister POSHAN scheme or PM-POSHAN that will replace Mid-day Meal scheme.

PM POSHAN Scheme will provide one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26. This is a centrally sponsored scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII of Government, Government-Aided Schools.

Key changes
- The scheme is proposed to be extended to students studying in pre-primary or *Bal Vatikas* of Government and Government-aided primary schools.
- Government will encourage the concept of *TithiBhojan* which is a community participation programme in which people provide special food to children on special occasions/festivals.
- Government will promote Nutrition Gardens in schools to give children first-hand experience with nature and gardening. The harvest of these gardens is used in the scheme providing additional micro-nutrients.
- Social Audit of the scheme is made mandatory in all the districts.
- Special provision is made for providing supplementary nutrition items to children in aspirational districts and districts with high prevalence of Anemia.
- Cooking competitions will be encouraged at all levels right from village level to national level to promote ethnic cuisine and innovative menus based on locally available ingredients and vegetables.
- Involvement of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO) and Women Self Help Groups (SHG) in implementation of the scheme will be encouraged (Vocal for Local for Atmanirbhar Bharat).
- The Central government will ensure Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) from states to schools, which will use it to cover cooking costs.

GoI approved new scheme – New India Literacy Programme (NILP)
Government of India has approved a centrally sponsored scheme, namely, "New India Literacy Programme (NILP)". The NILP has been approved for the next 5 Financial Years (2022-27) in order to integrate all the aspects of adult education with the National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP).

Objectives: It aims to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above.

Note that, Ministry of Education has chosen to use 'Education for All' rather than 'Adult Education,' since the previous terminology was not applicable to non-literates aged 15 and above.

PM Gati Shakti Scheme
PM Gati Shakti has entailed the geospatial mapping of everything in the country, different layers of maps which talk to each other, leading to integrated planning, with better optimization of time and cost.

PM GatiShakti: It is a digital platform that connects 16 ministries — including Roads and Highways, Railways, Shipping, Petroleum and Gas, Power, Telecom, Shipping, and Aviation. It aims to ensure holistic planning and execution of infrastructure projects. The portal will offer 200 layers of geospatial data, including on existing infrastructure such as roads, highways, railways, and toll plazas, as well as geographic information about forests, rivers and district boundaries to aid in planning and obtaining clearances. The portal will also allow various government departments to track, in real time and at one centralised place, the progress of various projects, especially those with multi-sectoral and multi-regional impact.

MoRTH's Road safety initiative – iRAD
The Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) Project is an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and is funded by World Bank, with objective to improve road safety in the country. The main idea behind it is to create a Centralised Accident Database to host and access all accident-related data by various departments/stakeholders. The application is an initiative of the MoRTH to capture relevant details about the accident-prone areas throughout India.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized workshop on ADIGRAMS
Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) as part its 'Outreach Initiative' has organized 2 days' workshop in Jharkhand on ADIGRAMS.

ADIGRAMS Portal will provide a central database for Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Tribal Development/ Welfare Department to access, interact and analyse up-to-date scheme wise Physical and financial information and progress. The portal will enable the officials/stakeholders at Central, State, District, Block and village level to access, monitor and measure performance in a real-time basis and take decisions accordingly.

This portal covers the following schemes of MoTA:
- Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India.
- Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS).
- Scheme for development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- Institutional Support for Development and Marketing of Tribal Produce.
- Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP (MSP for MFPs).

AVSAR Scheme launched by AAI

Airport Authority of India has launched "AVSAR" – Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of The Region scheme to encourage the talent of women, artisans, and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities. Under the scheme, the space will be allocated to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region. The space is being allotted to the Self-Help Groups for 15 days, turn on turn basis.

5. Polity

SC upheld 2020 amendment to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act
The Supreme Court has upheld the 2020 amendments made to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010, which introduced restrictions in the handling of foreign contributions by organizations in India.

FCRA regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do not adversely affect the internal security of the country. The Act, first enacted in 1976 was amended in the year 2010 and then 2020.

Section 5 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 gives the Central Government "unchecked and unbridled powers" to declare an organisation as being one of political nature and deny it access to funds from sources abroad. FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Applicability
- The provisions of the Act apply to the territory of India, to citizens of India who may be outside India and to companies or their branches outside India that are registered or incorporated in India.
- The entities covered by the Act include an individual, a Hindu undivided family, an association, or a registered company.

Once granted, FCRA registration is valid for 5 years. NGOs are expected to apply for renewal within 6 months of the date of expiry of registration. In case of failure to apply for renewal, the registration is deemed to have expired, and the NGO is no longer entitled to receive foreign funds or utilise its existing funds without permission from the ministry.

Darlong community officially included in the ST List
Darlongs – a small community in Tripura – was officially included in the list of Scheduled Tribes after the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which is an amendment to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. So far, they were considered a generic tribe under the Kuki community, and they were handed their tribal certificates as members of 'Kuki' community. The subsequent identity crisis among them, especially Darlong youths, who were equipped with modern education, culminated in the demand for a separate statutory identity of their own in 1995.

What is Sedition?
Sedition, which falls under *Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code*, is defined as any action that brings or attempts to bring hatred or contempt towards the Government of India and has been illegal in India since 1870.

Relevant Supreme Court judgements
1. The Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar case (1962)
2. The Balwant Singh vs State of Punjab (1995) case

6. Governance

CAG Audit of Aadhaar's regulator – UIDAI
CAG has presented its performance audit of Aadhaar's regulator, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). It was carried out over a 4-year period between FY-2015 and FY-2019.

The UIDAI is a statutory authority established in July 2016. It works under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Initially, the UIDAI was set up by the Government of India in January 2009, as an attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission. The UIDAI is mandated to assign a 12-digit unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India.

SC launches FASTER for electronic record management
Supreme Court has launched digital platform 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records'. The platform would be used by the court officials to instantly send e-copies of the orders through a secured electronic communication channel to intended parties thus ensuring that judicial orders can be communicated quickly. Through the use of this software orders that were passed by the High Courts and the Supreme Court will be transmitted safely without any third-party interference.

MoD constitutes Committee for a comprehensive review of NCC
Ministry of Defence has constituted a High-Level Expert Committee, under the chairmanship of former Member of Parliament Shri Baijayant Panda, for a comprehensive review of National Cadet Corps (NCC) in order to make it more relevant in changed times.

Key Highlights
- Committee to suggest measures to empower NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building.
- To propose ways for gainful engagement of NCC Alumni for betterment of the organisation.
- To recommend best practices of similar international youth organisations for inclusion in NCC curriculum.
- Cricketer MS Dhoni, Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra are among the members.

National Crisis Management Committee
For effective implementation of relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, the Government of India has set up a National Crisis Management Committee. It is chaired by Cabinet Secretary (current: Shri Rajiv Gauba).

Ministry of Civil Aviation e-governance project – e-BCAS
The meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Civil Aviation Ministry was held. The topic of discussion was 'e-BCAS project'.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, BCAS establishes, develops, implements maintains, and reviews the National Aviation Security Programme. It also safeguards civil aviation operations against acts of unlawful interference and threat, taking into account the safety, regularity, and efficiency of flights. It has now undertaken e-BCAS, an initiative under e-Governance for automation of internal processes.

7. *International Relations*

India-Nepal discussed Kalapani Area issue in a Meeting
India and Nepal discussed the Kalapani border dispute at the meeting between the 2 Prime Ministers. India has also urged Nepal to avoid 'politicization' of the boundary dispute.

Kalapani Area is the largest territorial dispute between Nepal and India consisting of at least 37,000 hectares of land in the High Himalayas. It is located in the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. It is a tri-junction between India, China and Nepal, which is of strategic significance in South Asian diplomacy.

It shares a border on the North with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Nepal in the East and South. It is wedged in between Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani.

The Kalapani region derives its name from the river Kali. Nepal's claims to the region are based on this river as it became the marker of the boundary of the kingdom of Nepal following the Treaty of Sugauli signed between the Gurkha rulers of Kathmandu and the East India Company after the Gurkha War/Anglo-Nepal War (1814 - 16). The treaty was ratified in 1816.

Solu Corridor Transmission Line between India and Nepal inaugurated
India and Nepal Prime Ministers have jointly inaugurated 132 KV Solu Corridor Transmission Line. It has been constructed to distribute the electricity generated from the Solukhumbu and surrounding hydropower projects in Solukhumbu, Okhaldhunga and Udayapur and connect it to the remaining national grid.

Commission for Dialogue
The Commission for Dialogue with the United Kingdom on the Falkland Islands was inaugurated by India and Argentina. The Commission seeks to settle the territorial dispute over the Islas Malvinas that are known as the Falkland Islands in the UK.

Falkland Islands are an overseas territory of the United Kingdom located to the South-West Atlantic Ocean at the Southern-most point of South America. They are positioned both in the southern and western hemispheres of the Earth. They are also called Malvinas Islands.

What is 2+2 dialogue?
The 4th '2+2' dialogue between India and the United States was held in Washington DC. The 2+2 dialogue is a format of meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies on strategic and security issues.

India has 2+2 dialogues with 4 key strategic partners: the USA, Australia, Japan, and Russia. Besides Russia, the other 3 countries are also India's partners in the QUAD. The USA is India's oldest and most important 2+2 talks partner.

Nepal becomes 105th member to sign on to the Framework Agreement of ISA
Nepal has become the 105th member country to sign on to the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

International Solar Alliance was launched in 2015. It is an alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India. It is a coalition of solar resource-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn to specifically address energy needs by harnessing solar energy. The Paris Declaration establishes ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries.

What is UN Peacekeeping?
Canada and allies are planning to work together to support among United Nations General Assembly members, including China, for a peacekeeping mission in Ukraine.

UN Peacekeeping: While decisions about establishing, maintaining or expanding a peacekeeping operation are taken by the Security Council, the financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States. Every Member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.

United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.

Composition: UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel. Peacekeeping forces are contributed by member states on a voluntary basis. Civilian staff of peace operations are international civil servants, recruited and deployed by the UN Secretariat.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Russia has warned Finland and Sweden against joining NATO, arguing that the move would not bring stability to Europe.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an inter-governmental military alliance established by Washington treaty signed on 4th April 1949. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium (Headquarters of Allied Command Operations – Mons, Belgium). It constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.

Composition: Since its founding, the admission of new member states has increased the alliance from the original 12 countries to 30. The most recent member state to be added to NATO was North Macedonia on 27th March 2020. NATO membership is open to "any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area."

China will host BRICS Summit 2022
India has agreed to attend a virtual summit of leaders of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa grouping (BRICS), likely to be held at the end of June 2022. India hosted last year's BRICS summit, which was also held virtually.

DG of IAEA to head assistance mission to Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine
Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will head an assistance mission to the now-defunct Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine aimed at stepping up efforts to help prevent the danger of a nuclear accident in the wake of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

China's Global Security Initiative
A new Global Security Initiative was put forward by China. This initiative will look to counter the Indo-Pacific strategy and the QUAD Grouping – the India, U.S., Australia, Japan.

ICG conducted 8th edition of NATPOLREX-VIII

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has conducted the 8th edition of 2-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise, 'NATPOLREX-VIII', off Mormugao harbour, Goa. The objective of the exercise is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills.

South Asian Cooperative for Environment Protection (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.

Maldives bans 'India Out' Campaign

Maldives has issued a decree banning the 'India Out' campaign. This campaign alleged that the cooperation between the governments of the 2 countries is undermining the national security and sovereignty of the Maldives.

India Sri Lanka MoU for Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) in Colombo

India and Sri Lanka have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to set up a state-of-the-art Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) in Colombo.

MoEA launches Tri-Lateral Development Corporation

Ministry of External Affairs has launched a platform TDC Fund that would involve private sectors with state support for huge investments in the Indo-Pacific region. Its aim is to provide an alternative to the Chinese development partnership model that has pushed parts of the developing world to a debt trap.

8. Awards and Recognition

2022 marks the 100th anniversary of Nobel Prize Winner – Har Gobind Khorana
The year 2022 marks the 100th birthday of Nobel Prize-winning chemist Har Gobind Khorana. He was born on January 9, 1922, Raipur (now in Pakistan).

Har Gobind Khorana shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Marshall W. Nirenberg and Robert W. Holley for research that helped to show how the nucleotides in nucleic acids, which carry the genetic code of the cell, control the cell's synthesis of proteins. In addition to the Nobel Prize, Khorana received the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award (1968) and the National Medal of Science (1987). Government of India awarded Khorana the Padma Vibhushan in 1969.

Prabhat Patnaik received Malcolm Adiseshiah Award
Renowned Indian economist and political commentator Prabhat Patnaik has been named the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022. The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies.

Malcolm Sathiyanathan Adiseshiah (1910 – 1994), was an Indian development economist and educator. In 1976 he was awarded the Padma Bhushan.

PM paid tribute to former Tanzania former President Julius Nyerere
Prime Minster of India has paid tributes to former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere on his 100th birth anniversary.

Shri Narendra Modi receives Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award
Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is the first recipient of the Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Award.

The Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar Puraskar will be given every year to an individual who has made "path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary" contribution to the nation, its people and society. The Award is instituted by Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan Charitable Trust.

Director General of GSI appointed – Dr S Raju
Dr S Raju has taken charge as Director-General of the Geological Survey of India in Kolkata. He succeeded R. S. Garkhal, superannuated on March 31, 2022.

Managing Director of DMRC appointed – Vikas Kumar
Vikas Kumar has been named the new Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for 5 years from April 1, 2022.

Dr Ian Fry appointed world's first expert on climate change and human rights
Dr Ian Fry has been appointed as the world's first expert on climate change and human rights for 3 years. He holds both Australian and Tuvaluan citizenship. Earlier, UNHRC has created the new Special Rapporteur for climate change and human rights position in October 2021.

3 Indian Women in Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022
3 Indians Falguni Nayar (Nykaa), Radha Vembu (Coho), Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Bitcoin) have been listed in the Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022 released by the Hurun Research Institute. The list is topped by Beijing-based property developer Wu Yajun of Longfor.

Grammy Awards 2022 held in Las Vegas, USA
The 64th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held in Las Vegas, USA. It recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year.

Jon Batiste received the most nominations with 11 and also the most awards with 5.

List of winners
> *1. Album Of The Year:* 'We Are' by Jon Batiste
> *2. Record Of The Year:* 'Leave the door open' by Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak
> *3. Best New Artist:* Olivia Rodrigo
> *4. Song Of The Year:* "Leave the Door Open," Silk Sonic

Note that, Indian music composer, Ricky Kej has won the Grammy Award for his album '*Divine Tides*'.

Also, Arooj Aftab is the first ever female Pakistani Grammy winner in the category Best Global Music Performance. She sung neo-Sufi" version of Hafeez Hoshiyarpuri's ghazal, '*Mohabbat karne wale kam na honge*'. She released her debut album titled 'Bird Under Water' in 2014 under her own independent label.

Forbes Billionaires list 2022 released
The Forbes billionaires 2022 was released. It compiles the list of the world's richest person.
The 36th annual ranking of billionaires across the world, had several Indians on the list. The Ambanis, Adanis, Mittals and Birlas all feature on the Forbes' latest rich list.

Elon Musk, the Tesla and SpaceX founder topped Forbes' list for the first time ever with a net worth of $219 billion followed by Amazon chief *Jeff Bezos*. *Mukesh Ambani* was placed at 10th place and *Gautam Advani* is at 11th position. *Savitri Jindal,* the chairperson of the Jindal Group, is the richest woman in India. She is at 91st rank. A total of 11 Indian women, with 4 newcomers, joined the global rich list this year. *Francoise Bettencourt Meyers* was listed as the richest woman in the world this year.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy received John F. Kennedy Award
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among 5 people as recipients of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for acting to protect democracy. Zelenskyy was chosen because of the way he has "marshalled the spirit, patriotism and untiring sacrifice of the Ukrainian people in a life-or-death fight for their country," as Russia pours in troops and assaults cities and towns.

Saraswati Samman 2021
Prof Ramdarash Mishra has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2021.This was for his collection of poems *'Mein to Yahan Hun'.*

First transgender actress who won Manipur State Film Awards – Bishesh Huirem
Bishesh Huirem was honoured with the Best Actress Award in Manipur State Film Awards. She is the first transgender actress who was awarded with such a prestigious award. She received the award for the film '*Apaiba Leichil*' for portraying a transgender character.

Nilamani Phookan received 56th Jnanpith Award
56th and 57th Jnanpith Awards were announced for the year 2020 and 2021 respectively. Assamese Poet Nilmani Phookan Jr. and Konkani Novelist Damodar Mauzo have received 56th and 57th Award respectively. They were selected for their contribution to Indian literature.

The Jnanpith Award is the oldest and the highest Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature".

Mumbai recognized as the Tree city of the world
Mumbai has been recognised as '2021 Tree City of the World' by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN) jointly with Arbor Day Foundation.

"The United Nations' 'Tree City of the World' programme provides direction, assistance, and worldwide recognition for communities' dedication to its urban forest, and provides a framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry.

International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021
Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat has been awarded the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021. Both Dr. Bhushan Kumar and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust have been working to raise awareness about leprosy and in providing care to those afflicted with it.
The award is instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020
UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020. The government has initiated this award to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts and Organizations of State and Government.

Laureus Sportsman of the Year
Sportsman of the Year Award was given to Max Verstappen (Motor racing). Max Verstappen is Formula 1 racer. Sportswoman of the Year Award was given to Elaine Thompson-Herah (Athletics). She won gold medals in Tokyo Olympics.

World Team of the Year Award is given to Italy Men's Football Team.

Whitley Gold Award to Charudutt Mishra
Charudutt Mishra has won the Whitley Gold Award for the second time. He has received this award for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems.

9. *Social Development*

WHO's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)
Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat. It will be the first and only global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the world.

The WHO describes traditional medicine as the total sum of the "knowledge, skills and practices indigenous and different cultures have used over time to maintain health and prevent, diagnose and treat physical and mental illness". Its reach encompasses ancient practices such as acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine and herbal mixtures as well as modern medicines.

India's first-ever radio channel for visually impaired launched – Radio Aksh
India's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named '*Radio Aksh*' was launched in Nagpur. The Blind Relief Association Nagpur (TBRAN) and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham) are the organisations behind this idea. The channel will be available on various internet radio platforms for free. This initiative will help the visually impaired to gain seamless access to audiobooks and education resources.

10. Economy

MoD releases 3rd Positive Indigenisation list
The Ministry of Defence has released the 3rd positive indigenisation list of 101 items, comprising major equipment/platforms. The list lays special focus on equipment/systems, which are being developed and likely to translate into firm orders in next five years. These weapons and platforms are planned to be indigenized progressively with effect from December 2022 to December 2027. These 101 items will, henceforth, be procured from local sources as per provisions of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

The 'First Negative Indigenisation' List comprising 101 items was notified in August 2020. The Second Indigenisation list was notified in June 2021 import list for 108 items.

What is Electoral Bond scheme?
Chief Justice of India N V Ramana has assured petitioners that the Supreme Court will take up for hearing a pending plea challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018.

Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit. State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party. The bonds are available for purchase by any person (who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India) for a period of 10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government. A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. Donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.

Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
Amazon (US-based e-commerce firm) and Future Group (Big Bazar owner) have agreed to appear before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), the parties informed the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court was hearing Amazon's application seeking directions to restrain Future Retail from alienating its retail assets till the arbitration proceedings between the Amazon and Future Group at Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) are completed.

Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) is a not-for-profit international arbitration organization based in Singapore, which administers arbitrations under its own rules of arbitration and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules.

Note that, India now has its own international arbitration centre in Mumbai.

Indian Postal Payment Bank launched Fincluvation
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has announced the launch of Fincluvation– a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion. IPPB is a 100% government owned entity under Department of Posts (DoP).

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.

MoPR and UNDP signed joint statement for localization of SDG
The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a joint statement of understanding on localization of Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDP has been leading efforts in partnership with NITI Aayog and the State governments, to localize and accelerate the SDGs through its signature solution of Sustainable Development Coordination Centres.

What is Parboiled Rice?
Government of India has stopped the purchase of excess parboiled rice, of which Telangana is a major producer.

Parboiled Rice: It is rice that has been partially boiled at the paddy stage, before milling. Parboiling of rice is not a new practice and has been followed in India since ancient times.

India's Wheat Export
Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent western sanctions on Russia have affected wheat exports from the Black Sea region and impacted food security in several countries, especially in Africa and West Asia. The disruption to global wheat supplies in turn has thrown open opportunities for India, especially given the domestic surplus availability of the cereal. Wheat exports in the 2021-2022 Financial Year were estimated at 7.85 million tonnes, a quadrupling from 2.1 million tonnes in the previous year.

CCEA approves MSP for Raw Jute for 2022-23
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2022-23 season. The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The announced MSP of raw jute for 2022-23 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19. It assures a minimum of 50 % as margin of profit. The Jute Corporation of India JCI will continue as Central Government Nodal Agency to undertake Price Support Operations and the losses incurred, if any, in such operations, will be fully reimbursed by the Central Government.

JSPL planning to set up its second coal gasification plant in Raigarh, Chhatiagarh
Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) has plans of setting up a coal gasification plant – the second in the country – at its Raigarh plant in Chhattisgarh. The company is already using the coal gasification technology to produce steel at its plant in Angul, Odisha. The 2 million tonne per annum production capacity plant, inaugurated in 2018, holds the distinction of being India's first and the only plant producing steel from '*swadeshi*' coal using the coal gasification technology.

Coal Gasification: It is the process of producing syngas, a mixture consisting of Carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H_2), carbon dioxide (CO_2), natural gas (CH_4), and water vapour (H_2O). During gasification, coal is blown with oxygen and steam while also being heated under high pressure. During the reaction, oxygen and water molecules oxidize the coal and produce syngas.

Surat gets India's first steel slag road
Surat has become the first city in the country to get a processed steel slag (industrial waste) road. This project falls under the initiative of the Waste to Wealth and Clean India Campaign. It is a part of a joint-venture project by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Union Ministry of Steel, government think-tank NITI Ayog, and Arcelor Mittal-Nippon Steel (AM/NS), at Hazira.

The slag is generated from a steel furnace burning at around 1,500-1,600 degrees centigrade in the form of molten flux material as an impurity.

Kerala's First Tunnel Road opened – Kuthiran Tunnel
Kerala's first road tunnel - Kuthiran tunnel - was open on one side, to improve Tamil Nadu-Karnataka connectivity. The Kuthiran Tunnel is the first road tunnel in Kerala. It is a twin-tube tunnel, with 3 lanes in each tube, located at Kuthiran in Thrissur district of Kerala. The tunnel is 1.6 km long and runs through the Peechi-Vazahani Wildlife Sanctuary. The objective of this road tunnel is to improve connectivity between important ports and towns while protecting wildlife. It is located on National Highway 544, owned and operated by National Highways Authority of India.

What is Standing Deposit Facility?
The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to institute a new instrument called the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) as the floor in the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor is a significant milestone.

The SDF as a liquidity management instrument was recommended by the 'Expert Committee to Revise and Strengthen the Monetary Policy Framework' (Chairman Urjit R Patel) in January 2014. In 2018, the Section 17 of the RBI Act, 1934, was amended to empower the RBI to introduce this instrument, which has now been launched in 2022.

A *Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)* is a tool used in monetary policy, primarily by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements (repos) or to make loans to the RBI through reverse repo agreements.

What is Poison Pill Defence Strategy?
Twitter has countered SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk's offer to buy the company for more than $43 billion with a corporate tool known as a poison pill.

The term '*poison pill*' refers to a defence tactic used by a target company to prevent or discourage a potential hostile takeover. The origin of the term can be attributed to espionage, where spies are instructed to swallow cyanide (*poison*) pills rather than face capture by enemy/hostile forces. The term eventually made its way to the business world, especially in mergers and acquisitions in the 1980s.

Poison pill is primarily of 2 types:
> 1. *Flip-in Strategy:* A widely used strategy, 'flip-in' allows existing shareholders (except the acquirer) to buy more shares in the target company at a deep discount when the potential acquirer's holding in the company reaches a certain limit. While this offers instant profit to investors, it also dilutes the shares held by the acquirer, making the takeover attempt more expensive and difficult.
> 2. *Flip-over Strategy:* A flip-over strategy allows shareholders to buy the deeply discounted stock after successful hostile takeover.

First-ever Semicon India-2022 Conference held in Bengaluru
First ever Semicon India-2022 Conference was held in Bengaluru. The Conference was organised by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) around theme of – 'Design and Manufacture in India, for the World: Making India a Semiconductor Nation'.

Semicon India - 2022 aims to make India a significant player in Global Semiconductor value chain.

Govt. to resume All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey
All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey is set to resume this year after a prolonged break. The results will include separate data sets for rural and urban parts, and splice spending patterns for each State and Union Territory, as well as different socio–economic groups.

The All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey is usually conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every 5 years. It is designed to collect information on the consumption spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural. The data gathered in this exercise reveals the average expenditure on goods (food and non-food) and services. It is used to arrive at estimates of poverty levels in different parts of the country and to review economic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Note that, India hasn't had any official estimates on per capita household spending since 2011–12.

Tata group launches Tata Neu
Tata group has launched TATA Neu which is the conglomerate's super app that brings together all of the TATA digital services and apps on a single platform. Various Tata Group digital services such as booking flight tickets, booking hotels, ordering groceries and medicines will be possible through Tata Neu App.

Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate kept unchanged
The 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has voted unanimously to keep the repo rate unchanged at 4 %. MPC committee also kept the reverse repo rate unchanged at 3.35 % as Russia's invasion of Ukraine added to a rise in inflation.

Cassette Swap
The RBI has decided to extend the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs till March 31, 2023.

Cassette Swap is lockable cassettes that are swapped at the time of cash replenishment in the ATMs. he recommendation to switch to lockable cassettes in ATMs was based on a report of the Committee on Currency Movement set up by the RBI.

First-ever flight of Made in India – HAL Dornier Do-228 flagged off from Dibrugarh
The first-ever flight of Made in India (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) HAL Dornier Do-228 was flagged off from Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh. This will be the nation's first commercial airline to operate an Indian-made aircraft for civil operations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the airline- Alliance Air with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Central PSU under the Defence Ministry to operate Indian-made Dornier aircraft, which is known as Hindustan aircraft.

RBI releases annual report on Currency and Finance (RCF)
RBI has released its annual report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the FY 2021-22. The theme of the Report is "Revive and Reconstruct" that provides a strategy for medium-term steady economic growth of 6.5-8.5%.

What is Legal Entity Identifier?
RBI has extended the guidelines on Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) to large borrowers of NBFCs and Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks (UCBs). LEI is a 20-character alpha-numeric code which is used to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity in any jurisdiction that is party to a financial transaction. LEI improves the quality and accuracy of financial data reporting systems for better risk management.

First State to provide digitized form J – Punjab

Punjab will be the first state in the country to provide "digitized form J" in real-time to farmers from this Rabi procurement season. 'J form' is the sale receipt of a farmer's agricultural produce in mandis (grain market) which acts as an income proof for a farmer who sells his crop.

What is International Finance Corporation?

The Medical Education and Drugs Department (MEDD) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) have joined forces to prioritise health care projects with emphasis on medical education under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in Maharashtra. IFC will be the transaction advisor for the PPPs to develop super-specialty hospitals and medical education facilities across the state.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset management services to encourage private sector development in developing countries. It is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States. It was established in 1956 as the private sector arm of the World Bank.

11. Important Days

Ambedkar Jayanti
The nation celebrated the 131st birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar on April 14 this year. His role as a social reformer, chairman of the draft committee of the Indian Constitution, and first law minister of the country is well-known.

International Day for Monuments and Sites
The United Nations marks April 18 as the International Day for Monuments and Sites. In many countries the day is also celebrated as World Heritage Day. Globally, the day is promoted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
Theme for 2022: *"Heritage and Climate"*

World Heritage site: These sites are officially recognised by the UN and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Heritage sites in India
- India is home to 40 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Harappan city of Dholavira in Gujarat as India's 40th world heritage site.
- Ramappa Temple (Telangana) was India's 39th World Heritage Site.
- Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim has been inscribed as India's first and the only "Mixed World Heritage Site".

World Health Day
Every year 7th April marks the celebration of World Health Day. It is being celebrated to mark the foundation of the World Health Organization (WHO) on 7th April 1948. Its idea was conceived at the First Health Assembly in 1948 and it came into effect in 1950.
Theme for 2022: *Our Planet, Our Health.*

Ahead of the World Health Day), the WHO has released Air Quality Database 2022, which shows that almost the entire global population (99 %) breathes air that exceeds WHO's air quality limits. The WHO for the first time has taken ground measurements of annual mean concentrations of Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). It also includes measurements of Particulate Matter with diameters equal or smaller than 10 μm (PM10) or 2.5 μm (PM2.5). The findings have prompted WHO to highlight the importance of curbing fossil fuel use and taking other tangible steps to reduce air pollution levels.

World Haemophilia Day
World Haemophilia Day is celebrated on 17th April every year, aiming to increase awareness about Haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The day is celebrated in the honour of Frank Schnabel, founder of the World Federation of Haemophilia (WHF). Haemophilia is a medical condition, mostly inherited, in which the ability of blood to clot is severely reduced, so that even a minor injury can cause severe bleeding.
Theme for 2022: *"Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy"*

Civil Services Day
The Government of India celebrates April 21 every year as 'Civil Services day' as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work. This date is chosen to commemorate the day when first Home Minister of Independent India,

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi. As part of Civil Servant Day, Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are presented to Districts/Implementing Units for implementation of Priority programme and innovation categories.

Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration have been instituted with a view to recognize the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/implementing units and Central/State organisations for the welfare of common citizens. They are also conferred for effective implementation of identified priority programs and innovation.

Exemplary work done in the following 5 identified priority programmes are awarded:
> (i) Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's Participation in Poshan Abhiyan,
> (ii) Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through Khelo India scheme,
> (iii) Digital payments and Good Governance in PM SVANidhi Yojana,
> (iv) Holistic Development through One District One Product scheme,
> (v) Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention.

National Panchayati Raj Day

National Panchayati Raj day is observed every year on 24th April. This year it was be held without a theme.

The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. It marks a defining moment in the history of decentralisation of power, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj, through the Constitution (73rd Constitutional Amendment) Act, 1992 which came into force with effect from 24th April 1993.

Every year, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj awards the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs. These are conferred under various categories namely:
> 1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP).
> 2. Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP).
> 3. Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA).
> 4. Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award.
> 5. e-Panchayat Puraskar (given to States/UTs only).

Balwant Rai Committee: The establishment of the Panchayati Raj System in the country was recommended by the Balwant Rai Committee.

World Book and Copyright Day 2022

To promote awareness on the benefits of reading books, World Book Day, also known as World Book and Copyright Day 2022 is observed every year on April 23. The day is celebrated by UNESCO and other related organisations across the world to honour authors, and books, promote the art of reading, etc.
In 2022, the World Book Capital is the Mexican city of Guadalajara. The World Book Capital of 2021 was Tbilisi, Georgia.
Theme for 2022: *"Read, so you never feel low"*

Note that, UNESCO has selected 23rd April as World Book Day to pay tribute to great literary figures including William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega who died on this day.

International Children's Book Day
International Children's Book Day is celebrated on April 2 every year. Canada hosted the International Children's Book Day 2022.

Theme for 2022: *"Stories are wings that help you soar every Day"*

World Autism Awareness Day
United nations General Assembly has declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day.

Theme for 2022: *'Inclusion in Quality Education for all''.*

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance
International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance is celebrated on April 4. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution to make April 4 of each year as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

The thief for 2022: *"Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home"*

National Maritime Day
National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 every year. National Maritime Day was first celebrated in year 1964. It was 59th National Maritime Day with theme 'Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19'.

World Earth Day
World earth day was celebrated on April 22.

The theme of Earth Day 2022 was *'Invest in our planet'.*

Earth Day was first observed in 1970 when Senator Gaylord Nelson raised the concern regarding the degrading environmental conditions.

World Malaria Day
World Malaria Day is celebrated on April 25.

Theme 2022: *'Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives'*

12. Culture

What is Rampa Rebellion?
The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has visited the birthplace of noted freedom fighter and revolutionary, Shri Alluri Sitarama Raju in Pandrangi village near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

In 1922, Indian revolutionary Alluri Sitaram Raju led the Rampa Rebellion against the British Raj for their imposition of the 1882 Madras Forest Act, which severely restricted the free movement of the tribal community within their own forests.

The Rampa Rebellion of 1922, also known as the *Manyam Rebellion*, was a tribal uprising, led by Alluri Sitarama Raju in Godavari Agency of Madras Presidency, British India. It began in August 1922 and lasted until the capture and killing of Raju in May 1924.

Ministry of Education issued Hindi translation of Tolkappiyam
The Hindi translation of Tolkappiyam and the Kannada translations of 9 works of Classical Tamil literature were issued by the Ministry of Education. Tamil literature goes back to the Sangam Era, named after the assembly (*sangam*) of poets. Tolkappiyam was authored by Tolkappiyar and is considered the earliest of Tamil literary work. Though it is a work on Tamil grammar, it also provides insights on the political and socio-economic conditions of the time.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was a Bengali poet and writer. He wrote the national song Vande Mataram. His novel 'Anandamath' – which was set in the background of the Sanyashi Bidroho (rebellion of monks in late 18th century) — is considered to be one of key works on Bengal's nationalism. His first Bengali fiction is called '*Durgeshnondini*' published in 1865. He also wrote other famous novels like Kapalkundala in 1866, Mrinalini in 1869, Vishbriksha in 1873, Chandrasekhar in 1877, Rajani in 1877, Rajsimha in 1881 and Devi Chaudhurani in 1884. He brought out a monthly magazine called '*Bangadarshan*' in 1872. His first fiction to appear in print was the English novel 'Rajmohan's Wife'.

India designated as Guest of Honour at Paris Book Festival 2022
India is designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the Paris Book Festival 2022. The last time India was invited to the event was in 2007. The India Pavilion which has been designed by National Institute of Design (NID), houses more than 15 digital and physical exhibitions displaying over 400 books published in various Indian languages representing the works of 65 Indian publishers.

Also note that, France will be the guest of honour at the New Delhi World Book Fair postponed to May 2022.

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya inaugurated
Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi. The Sangrahalaya, located at the iconic Teen Murti complex, was inaugurated as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav – a 75-week celebration launched to mark 75 years of Independence. The logo of the Sangrahalaya shows hands holding the dharma chakra, symbolizing the nation and democracy.

Lord Hanuman statue unveiled in Morbi, Gujrat
108-feet statue of Lord Hanuman in Morbi, Gujarat. The statue is the second of the four statues being set up in the four directions across the country, as part of 'Hanumanji Char dham project'. First statue of this series was set up at the Jakhu hills in the North in Shimla in 2010 and has been sculpted by a Rajasthan sculptor. The work on the statue in the south at Rameswaram has been started.