



## **CURRENT AFFAIRS (APRIL-MAY, 2022) :**

### **National**

- ⇒ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) organized a two-day international conference 'Devayatanam – an odyssey of Indian temple architecture on 25th-26th February 2022 at Hampi, Karnataka. The conference aimed to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of the temple.
- ⇒ India and France inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and ocean governance. Dr S Jaishankar was on a three-day visit to France to attend EU Ministerial Forum on Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The agreement on 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' was signed between India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a 550-tonne capacity "Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant" in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. This is the biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia. The Gobardhan plant is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation. Wet urban household waste and waste from cattle and farm is Gobardhan. This Indore-based plant, with a capacity to treat 550 tonnes of segregated wet organic waste per day, is expected to produce around 17000 kg CNG and 100 tonnes of organic compost every day.
- ⇒ India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 and the 18th edition of the G20 Summit will be held in India in 2023.
- ⇒ India announced the diplomatic level boycott of the opening and closing ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China. The reason behind the boycott was that China picked a Chinese soldier (Qi Fabao) as Olympic torchbearer, who was involved in the Galwan incident on June 15, 2020, which had resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers, including a Colonel.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the world's most advanced technology-developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) 'Toyota Mirai' at New Delhi. Toyota Mirai is India's first Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), which is completely powered by Hydrogen. This is the first of its kind project in India which will create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country and help India to become 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047.
- ⇒ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is going to organise 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' (YUVIKA) or Young Scientist Programme, which is a special initiative with an objective to impact basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications on young students, especially in rural

areas. It also expects to create a platform that encourages more students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research/ careers.

- ⇒ The Delhi government has announced the extension of its 'Business Blasters' programme also to the private schools of Delhi. The Business Blasters programme was launched in 2021. Under this programme, students who are studying in classes 11 and 12 are mentored and then provided a financial capital of Rs 2,000 as seed money so that their business ideas can be financed. This programme is a part of the Entrepreneur Mindset Curriculum (EMC) that has been developed by the Delhi government for high school students so that the government can nurture all the future CEOs and entrepreneurs from an early age. The programme is already being implemented in the government schools. The students of the government school of Delhi have already developed around 52,000 business ideas since the start of this programme. This programme is also being implemented
- ⇒ The first edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was conducted in the Arabian Sea and at Goa. This exercise was conducted with the aim of enhancing the interoperability of the participating nations in the area of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Out of the 24-member nations of IONS, 15 took part in this exercise.
- ⇒ A border agreement was signed between Assam and Meghalaya to solve the boundary dispute between the two states. This MoU was signed between Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister of Assam, and Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma.

### **International**

- ⇒ Russian President, Vladimir Putin has recognised the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk the separatist regions of eastern Ukraine.
- ⇒ JPMorgan Chase has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the Metaverse. The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world Decentraland. Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge christened 'Onyx Lounge' after its suit of Ethereum-based services. Metaverse is a virtual universe where users can do multiple activities like socialising, shopping or even attending events through their avatar.
- ⇒ The United Kingdom has marked the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's rule. The queen surpassed Louis XIV of France as the longest-reigning monarch of a sovereign state. Elizabeth II is the Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms. On 6 February 1952, Elizabeth became the queen after the death of her father King George VI.



- ⇒ The U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia every year, starting from 2022. The resolution, adopted by the 193-member UN General Assembly, was introduced by Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). It marks the day when a gunman entered two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 worshippers and wounding 40 others in the terror attack. The main objective of International Day to Combat Islamophobia will be curtailing systematic hate speech and discrimination against Muslims; respect for religious symbols and practices; along with the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief.
- ⇒ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021. As per the report, India and Saudi Arabia (11% each) emerged as the largest importers of arms between 2017-21. Egypt (5.7%), Australia (5.4%) and China (4.8%) were the next three largest importers respectively. Russia (46%), France (27%), and the USA (12%) were the top three largest exporters of arms to India during the period. USA, with 39% share, retained its standing as the world's largest arms exporters during 2017-21. Russia (19%), France (11%), China (4.6%) and Germany (4.5%) were among the top 5 largest exporters respectively. India was 23rd largest exporter during 2017-21, with a share of just 0.2% of the global exports.
- ⇒ Russia has become the most sanctioned country in the world, due to its invasion on Ukraine. Russia faced 2,778 new sanctions since February 22, 2022, led by the US and European nations, bringing the total sanctions to 5,530. The country already had 2,752 sanctions in place before February 22. Countries across the world are putting sanctions on Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine. Russia has now surpassed countries like Iran and North Korea in terms of number of sanctions.

## Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 10.05.2022) are :
  - \* Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 4.00%.
  - \* Fixed Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 3.35%
  - \* Standing Deposit Facility (*SDF allows the RBI to absorb excess cash from the economy by sucking liquidity from commercial banks without giving government securities in return to the lenders*) : 3.75%

- \* Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 18.00%
  - \* CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%
  - \* Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 4.25%
  - \* MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 4.25%.
  - \* Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 7.25% - 8.80%.
  - \* MCLR (*The Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate refers to the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it cannot lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI*): 6.50% - 7.00%.
- (Difference: Base Rate is governed by the average cost of funds while MCLR is governed by the current cost of funds. MCLR replaced the Base Rate on April 1, 2016. Under the MCLR regime, banks must adjust their interest rates as soon as the repo rate changes. Earlier it was not so).
- \* Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 5.00% - 5.60%.
  - \* Savings A/c.: 2.70% - 3.00%.

- ⇒ New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT). The Indian office will help support crucial infrastructure projects in India. NDB was set up by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in 2014 with the objective of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS as well as other emerging markets. It became operational in 2015 and is headquartered in Shanghai, China. All the founding members equally own the bank.
- ⇒ Reserve Bank of India's wholly-owned subsidiary Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named "Varnika" at Mysuru, Karnataka.
- ⇒ The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur launched Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills (TEJAS) in Dubai. This is an initiative under the Skill India International Project to train Indians so that they can get employed overseas. TEJAS is also aiming to create pathways so that the Indian workforce can get equipped for the various skills and market requirements in the UAE. Under this project, 10,000 strong Indian workforces will be created in the UAE during the initial phase of implementation.



- ⇒ Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Narayan Rane has announced the establishment of MSME-Technology Centre with an outlay of Rs. 200 Crore, in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.
- ⇒ The world's first wildlife bond has been issued by the World Bank, raising USD 150 million that will partly be used for the conservation of South Africa's black rhinos.
- ⇒ India is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index 2022, released by the Global Innovation Policy Centre of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The USA topped the index followed by the UK and Germany.
- ⇒ India has been ranked at 120th position in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021. The Index measures the country's total progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 as a part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Index has been topped by Finland, followed by Sweden, Denmark and Germany.
- ⇒ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) will establish its first branch outside India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of the India-UAE trade deal signed. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between the UAE and India will usher in a new phase of joint strategic cooperation in all sectors.
- ⇒ Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has reconstituted its 20-member alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) space. The panel, which was constituted by Sebi in March 2015, earlier had 22 members. Till now, the committee has submitted three reports on the AIF industry. The committee is chaired by Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy.
- ⇒ Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country.
- ⇒ SEBI has decided to make provision for separation of the roles of Chairperson and MD/CEO as 'voluntary' against 'mandatory' earlier. The SEBI in June 2017 set up a committee on corporate governance under Uday Kotak with a view to seek recommendations to further enhance corporate governance norms for listed companies.
- ⇒ The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) has issued the Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) in support of South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of Black Rhino.
- ⇒ Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked ABG Shipyard for an alleged Rs 22,842-crore financial fraud. ABG Shipyard is the flagship entity of ABG Group. It has cheated a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions of Rs. 22,842 crore. This is the biggest bank fraud case ever registered by the CBI. The case pertained to funds gotten and misused during the 2012-17 period. Rishi Agarwal, the then CMD of ABG Shipyard has been named in the FIR.
- ⇒ India has ranked 46th position in the 2021 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit. Norway topped the Democracy Index followed by New Zealand and Finland. Afghanistan has been placed at the bottom with 167 rank.
- ⇒ As per the TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021, Mumbai has been ranked at 5th and Bengaluru at 10th in terms of the most congested cities in the world in 2021. Delhi ranked 11th among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index. Istanbul in Turkey has been declared as the most congested city in the world followed by Moscow.
- ⇒ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the second-largest buyer of gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021. The largest buyer, the Central Bank of Thailand, bought 90 metric tonnes of gold while RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021.
- ⇒ In accordance with the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Elon Musk (of Tesla Motors and SpaceX) was named as the world's richest person with a total net worth of \$235 billion. He was followed by Jeff Bezos (of Amazon) with a total net worth of \$183 billion and Bernard Arnault (of LVMH – the world's largest luxury goods company) with a total net worth of \$168 billion. Gautam Adani's net worth reached \$ 88.5 billion overtaking Mukesh Ambani's \$ 87.9 billion becoming Asia's richest person as on 8th February 2022.
- ⇒ The United States was India's top trading partner in the calendar year 2021 with a trade of \$112.3 billion. The US is followed by China. In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank.
- ⇒ Chennai Super Kings (CSK), has become the country's first sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of in the grey market trading in the Rs 210-225 price band.
- ⇒ New Delhi has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the second consecutive year as per IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report. New Delhi is followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh). Meanwhile, Bhiwadi was the most polluted city in India, followed by Ghaziabad and Delhi. Bangladesh was the most polluted country, followed by Chad and Pakistan. India was the fifth most polluted country.



- ⇒ India has improved its rank by three spots to acquire 136th position, out of 146 countries, in the United Nations' World Happiness Report for the year 2022. In 2021, India's rank was 139. Finland has topped the 2022 World Happiness Report, for the fifth continuous year. Afghanistan has been ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, at 146th position. The International Day of happiness is observed every year around the world on March 20. The United Nations started celebrating this day in 2013. The resolution was initiated by Bhutan which shed the light on the importance of National Happiness. The theme for Happiness Day 2022 is 'Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind'.
- ⇒ As per Bloomberg's recent data on Market capitalization, for the 1st time, India's equities market has entered the world's top 5 in terms of market capitalization. India is ranked 5th with an overall market capitalization of \$ 3.21 trillion. The total world market cap stands at \$ 109.22 trillion. The US topped the ranking with an overall market cap of \$ 47.32 trillion, followed by China (\$ 11.52 trillion), Japan (\$ 6 trillion) and Hong Kong (\$ 5.55 trillion).
- ⇒ India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175% from \$8 billion in 2020 to \$22 billion in 2021. On a global scale, India came in second to the US last year, which attracted \$51 billion in investment.
- ⇒ Reserve Bank of India has launched a booklet named "BE(A)WARE" which features common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions. The booklet: provides safeguards against commonly used fraudulent techniques like SIM swaps, vishing/phishing links, lottery, fake loan websites and digital apps etc.

## Sports

- ⇒ Bihar's Sakibul Gani becomes the first player in the history of the game to score a triple century on his first-class debut. He scored 341 off 405 balls in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against Mizoram at the Jadavpur University Campus ground, Jadavpur, Bengal.
- ⇒ Gujarat Titans, owned by CVC Capital and captained by Hardik Pandya is a new entity in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022. The other new team is Lucknow Super Giants, owned by RPSG Group, announced its official name as . The Lucknow Super Giants w team will be led by KL Rahul.
- ⇒ India defeated England to clinch the Under-19 Cricket World Cup at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua. This was India's fifth U-19 title, having previously won the trophy in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018. Yash Dhull becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand and Prithvi Shaw.
- ⇒ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s, Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council has announced National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s flagship product RuPay as an official partner for the Tata IPL 2022.
- ⇒ Indian women cricket captain, Mithali Raj has become the first woman to appear in six World Cups. She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.
- ⇒ Indian Wushu player Sadia Tariq has won a gold medal in the junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022. The 15-year-old Sadia Tariq hails from Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ⇒ India's teen chess Grandmaster, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has created history as he defeated world number one chess champion, Magnus Carlsen of Norway in an online chess tournament.
- ⇒ International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved a proposal to include Surfing, Skateboarding and Sport Climbing for the 2028 Summer Olympics Games that will be organized in Los Angeles, United States. The 2028 Summer Olympics are officially known as the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad, or Los Angeles 2028 is a forthcoming event scheduled to take place from July 21 – August 6, 2028, in Los Angeles, California, US. The 2024 Summer Olympics Games will be organized in Paris, France.
- ⇒ P.V. Sindhu haswin the women's singles title at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament.
- ⇒ Australian female tennis player Ashleigh Barty has announced retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years. She has won three Grand Slam singles titles — the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian Open in 2022.
- ⇒ Lakshya Sen, who won bronze at the World Championships, placed second at the 2022 All England Open Badminton Championships after losing to world number one Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles final.
- ⇒ India has been chosen to host the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022. The 44th edition of the Olympiad is scheduled to be held in Chennai from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022. This is the first time that India will host the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927.
- ⇒ India has taken the first place in the medal standings at the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo, organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation. By winning a total of seven medals, the Indian team took the first place in the medals tally, with four gold, two silver and one bronze. Norway took the the second place and France the third place in the medals tally.



## Awards

- ⇒ Maharatna company of the Government of India, Coal India Limited has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award. Coal India received this honour at the 'Energy Meet and Excellence Award' function organized by Industry Chamber 'ASSOCHAM' in Kolkata.
- ⇒ Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has announced the IBA's 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021. This year's IBA Awards celebrating 'Next Gen Banking' has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year. Best Technology Bank of the Year in Large Banks segment is Bank of Baroda. State Bank of India got the Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives in Large Bank segment.
- ⇒ Indian men's hockey player PR Sreejesh has won the World Games Athlete of the Year award for 2021. He is the second Indian after Rani Rampal to win this award. In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour for her performances in 2019.
- ⇒ Devendra Jhaharia became the first para-athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan award.
- ⇒ Tokyo Olympic gold medallist, Neeraj Chopra claimed the coveted 'Sportstar of the Year (Male)' award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who claimed the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the 'Sportstar of the Year (Female)' award.
- ⇒ India's third-largest private sector bank, Axis Bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space. The award acknowledges the bank's outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments.
- ⇒ Deepak Dhar, an Indian theoretical physicist, has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. The Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) presents this medal once in three years for contributions in the field of statistical physics. He has shared the medal with John J Hoefield of Princeton University.

## Persons

- ⇒ Madhabi Puri Buch, the former ICICI Banker, has been appointed first female Chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). She replaced Ajay Tyagi.
- ⇒ Ilker Ayci, a former chairman of Turkish Airlines has been appointed new CEO and MD of Air India. Ilker Ayci is an aviation industry leader who led Turkish Airlines to its current success during his tenure there.

- ⇒ Bhagwant Mann was sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Punjab at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of Bhagat Singh. His Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly.
- ⇒ N Chandrasekaran, the chairman of Tata Sons, has recently been appointed Chairman of Air India. In February 2022, N Chandrasekaran was reappointed chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years.
- ⇒ Justice (retd) AK Sikri has been named as Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC), of the Chardham project, following the resignation of Ravi Chopra..
- ⇒ Yoon Suk-yeol has been elected new President of South Korea. He is scheduled to assume office as president on May 10, 2022, for a fixed term of five years. Yoon Suk-yeol will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in.

## Died

- ⇒ Former India footballer Surajit Sengupta has passed away due to COVID-19 complications.
- ⇒ Sandhya Mukherjee, the legendary Bengali singer, has passed away.
- ⇒ Bappi Lahiri, the veteran singer and composer has passed away.
- ⇒ Praveen Kumar Sobti, best known for playing the role of Bheem in the TV series Mahabharat, passed away.
- ⇒ Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has passed away at the age of 92 after suffering a multi-organ failure. The Bharat Ratna awardee was admitted to the hospital after being diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for the coronavirus disease. She is survived by her three sisters – Usha Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and Meena Khadikar and brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar.
- ⇒ Ramesh Deo, a prominent film personality known for playing a diverse range of roles in Marathi and Hindi movies, passed away.
- ⇒ Stephen Wilhite, the creator of the Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) format passed away.
- ⇒ Former Australian cricketer (wicketkeeper), Rodney William Marsh has passed away.
- ⇒ Sonny Ramadhin, the West Indies spin legend, has passed away.

## Miscellaneous

Dabur India has become the first Indian consumer goods company to become completely plastic waste neutral. It has done this by collecting, processing and recycling around 27,000 metric tonnes of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22.



- ⇒ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura has been awarded the prestigious President's Colour by President Ram Nath Kovind. President's Colour Award is the highest award or honour that can be bestowed upon any of India's military units. This award is also called 'Nishaan' as it is an emblem that will be worn by the bestowed units' officers on their lefthand sleeve of the uniform. INS Valsura is one of Indian Navy's premier training establishments. INS Valsura has been entrusted with the responsibility of training the sailors and officers who are part of the Indian Navy, and Coast Guard.
- ⇒ The government of India has launched an evacuation mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine tension.
- ⇒ In 2015, The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) became the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy. With the commission of a 12 MWp solar power plant on March 6 near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala, CIAL has got the status as a power positive airport, from its current status of being a power-neutral airport.
- ⇒ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided not to send its aircraft in the multilateral air exercise 'Cobra Warrior-22' in the United Kingdom, due to the deepening crisis in Ukraine, arising out of the Russian military attack in that country. The UK later cancelled the exercise.
- ⇒ The Government of India organised the Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID) (also known as 'Polio Ravivar') on February 27, 2022, to give two drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child in the country under the age of five. Over 15 crore children were covered under the drive across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts.
- ⇒ The third edition of the joint military exercise 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022' between India and Japan was conducted from 27 February to 10 March 2022, at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.
- ⇒ The Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi has released a signature tune for 'Vande Bharatam'. The tune is composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh. It was produced for Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav of Ministry of Culture presented at Rajpath, New Delhi for Republic Day event 2022.
- ⇒ World Thinking Day, originally known as Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22 February by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide. The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding. The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is Our World, Our Equal Future.
- ⇒ Mumbai will host the International Olympic Committee session in 2023. The IOC Session for 2023 will be held at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. The last such session was hosted by India in the year 1983 in New Delhi.
- ⇒ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is organising a 'Darkathon-2022' to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through the darknet.
- ⇒ Union Power Minister R K Singh has announced that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024. This initiative is a part of the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net-zero emitter by 2070.
- ⇒ Maharashtra's Health Minister, Rajesh Tope has launched 'Hope Express' in the state to prevent cancer. This is the first such machine in India. He was speaking at the launch of a state-of-the-art Mosaic-3D radiation machine at a private hospital in Kolhapur.
- ⇒ The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar jointly inaugurated the 14.5-kilometre long 'Rail-cum-Road-Bridge' over the River Ganga on NH 333B in Bihar's Munger region.
- ⇒ Veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as chairman of the Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC) on the Char Dham project. The committee had recommended limiting the width of the roads to 5.5 metres in the Char Dham project. But the Supreme Court recently allowed the width of the road to 10 metres in the strategically important Badrinath, Gangotri and Pithoragarh highways.
- ⇒ Indian Army has conducted a first-of-its-kind Cyber Security Hackathon named 'Sainya Ranakshetram'. The hackathon was conducted in the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow under the overall guidance of the Shimla-based Army Training Command (ARTRAC), one of the seven commands of the Indian Army.
- ⇒ The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar has launched the Central Sector scheme titled SMILE, which stands for Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise. The new umbrella scheme aims to provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- ⇒ The FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has announced that Anti-Smuggling Day will be observed every year on February 11, 2022.



- ⇒ Atal Tunnel has been officially certified as 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet' by the World Book of Records. Atal tunnel is a Highway tunnel built under Rohtang Pass in eastern Pir Panjal Himalayan range on Leh-Manali Highway.
- ⇒ The 508.17-kilometre long Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train, which will be India's first bullet train route is scheduled to be completed by December 2024. Surat city will get India's first bullet train station. National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project.
- ⇒ India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. The plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen every day from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.
- ⇒ Instagram has announced a new campaign called "Take a Break" to encourage people to take a break from social media. This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign, in partnership with 'We The Young', called 'Break Zaroori Hai'.
- ⇒ Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the world's third-largest cricket stadium in Jaipur. The International Cricket Stadium in Jaipur will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world. The new international stadium will be built by the Rajasthan Cricket Academy (RCA) on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass. The stadium will have a seating capacity of 75,000 spectators. Currently, Narendra Modi Stadium (former Motera Stadium) in Ahmedabad is the world's largest stadium with a capacity of 1,32,000 spectators. The second-largest stadium is Australia's Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) which has a capacity of 1,00,024 spectators.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Ramanujacharya.
- ⇒ The first geological park of India will be built in Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Approval for the park was given by the Geological Survey of India, under the ministry of mining. In 1928, William Henry Sleeman had discovered a Dinosaur fossil from this area. UNESCO has also recognised Lamheta as a geo heritage site.
- ⇒ Tata Sky has dropped the 'sky' brand name after 15 years and has rechristened itself as Tata Play. The DTH company has joined hands with Netflix to offer new OTT (over the top) content-centric channel packs as well.
- ⇒ The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India signed a memorandum of understanding to create the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ⇒ The Diamond City of India, Surat, has become the first in the country to get a road that is made out of steel waste.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has designated the 5th of October to be celebrated as National Dolphin Day every year as a historic step in creating awareness for the conservation of Dolphins.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER, G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the three-day North-East festival called 'Ishan Manthan' at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi.
- ⇒ A picture book edition titled "The Little Book of Joy", co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winners 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu, will be released in September 2022.
- ⇒ Nagaland has created history by becoming the first State Assembly in the country to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme to become completely paperless.
- ⇒ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) recently organised the massive military drill 'Cold Response 2022' in Norway.
- ⇒ Mumbai announced its detailed framework to 'zero out carbon emissions by 2050' and became the first city in South Asia to set such a target. Mumbai's target is 20 years ahead of India's target to reach net zero emissions by 2070.
- ⇒ The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru.
- ⇒ Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in Kerala has yet again found to be the lowest in the country (30 per one lakh live births). According to the latest data brought out by the Registrar General of India, the MMR of the country has improved to 103 for the period 2017-19
- ⇒ 'Writing With Fire' became the first Indian documentary to be nominated at the Oscars. 'Writing With Fire' had won Audience and Jury Awards at the Sundance Film Festival last year. It is produced by Ticket Films and directed by filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh.
- ⇒ Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles are organising a programme called "Jharokha – a compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture" at various places to celebrate the traditional Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and art & culture. To begin with, the first event under this celebration was recently organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Jharokha is a PAN India programme that will be held at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.



- ⇒ The trial of the 'Kavach' functioning system between Gullaguda and Chitgidda Railway stations was examined by Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of Railways. During the testing, two locomotives were made to travel towards each other, creating a head-on collision situation. The 'Kavach' system activated the automatic braking mechanism, bringing the locomotives to a complete stop 380 metres apart.
- ⇒ Maharashtra government has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof. Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be the first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place.
- ⇒ International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed globally on the 14th of March every year. It is also known as the Pi Day because the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi) can be rounded down to 3.14.
- ⇒ Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, while presenting the state budget, has announced a 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women for their significant achievements or contribution in different walks of life in the international and national spheres. The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry an award-money of Rs 5 lakh along with a commendation.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a World Health Organization Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ⇒ India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya by the Buddha International Welfare Mission. The statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high. Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue. The Buddha obtained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya, gave his first sermon in Sarnath and died in Kushinagar.
- ⇒ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M K Stalin has inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant. The floating plant is established in Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC) factory at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to provide clean energy.
- ⇒ Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh has created a Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (*diyas*) in 10 minutes. The diyas were lighted as part of the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava' on the occasion of Mahashivratri. With this they broke the earlier record of lighting 9.41 lakh diyas created in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 3 November 2021.
- ⇒ Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGII) has announced the launch of FG Dog Health Cover, comprehensive health insurance for pet dogs, along with industry-first 'Emergency Pet Minding' cover. The FGII also focuses on a digital campaign named 'Oh My Dog!' with an aim to create awareness on purchasing dog health insurance cover. The comprehensive cover includes surgery and hospitalisation, terminal illness, mortality, and funeral expenses. With add-on covers, pet parents will, also, be able to insure their dogs against third-party liability, theft or loss, emergency pet minding, veterinary consultation, and doctor on call.
- ⇒ Swiss International Airlines will become the first airline to use solar aviation fuel ("sun-to-liquid" fuel) to help power its flights. Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS or Swiss Air Lines) and its parent company, Lufthansa Group have partnered with Switzerland based solar fuels start-up, Synhelion SA (Synhelion) to use its solar aviation fuel.
- ⇒ Hero MotoCorp has unveiled a new brand 'Vida', (Vida means life) for its emerging mobility solutions and upcoming electric vehicles.
- ⇒ Tata Motors has launched a mobile showroom (showroom on wheels) named 'Anubhav,' to target rural customers by increasing their reach in rural areas and providing them with a doorstep car buying experience. A total of 103 mobile showrooms are being deployed across the country to enhance the Tata Motors brand awareness in rural India'.
- ⇒ India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization 'Four Paw'.
- ⇒ Russia destroyed the largest plane in the world called 'Antonov-225 cargo plane', also called 'AN-225 Mriya' of Ukraine. The plane was destroyed outside Kyiv.

### Books & Authors

- ⇒ How to Prevent the Next Pandemic – Bill Gates.
- ⇒ Atal Bihari Vajpayee – Sagarika Ghose.
- ⇒ Wrist Assured: An Autobiography – G R Vishwanath (former Indian cricket captain).
- ⇒ More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT – Dr Tehemton Erach Udawadia.
- ⇒ Tomb of Sand (Translation of Hindi novel Ret Samadhi) – Geetanjali Shree.
- ⇒ On Board : My Years in BCCI – Ratnakar Shetty (BCCI's first Chief Administrative Officer).

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