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# National & States Affairs

**451.** On April 19, Punjab government decided to bring an area of 1.2 million hectare (mha) under the Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) method in the upcoming Kharif sowing season to conserve water while sowing paddy. This is double the area that was sown under DSR in 2021 (0.6 mha). DSR is also called the 'Broadcasting Seed Technique', under which seeds are directly drilled in the fields. It can help reduce water consumption by as much as 35% over the traditional process according to the 2011 study published in the journal *Advances in Agronomy*. Rice is the major kharif crop of India and is grown in all the major agrarian states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Punjab – to bring 1.2 mha under the DSR method in the upcoming Kharif sowing season to conserve water
- DSR – also called the 'Broadcasting Seed Technique'
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**452.** During a two-day Smart Cities Conference in Surat on April 18 and 19, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri announced that 80 Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs), an integral component of the Smart Cities Mission, have already been set up, while the remaining 20 would be completed by August 15, 2022. The Smart Cities Mission (SCM) aims at developing 100 cities, which were shortlisted, into Self-sustainable Urban Settlements. The SCM was launched on June 25, 2015. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- MoHUA Minister Hardeep Puri announced to set up ICCCs in all 100 Smart Cities:
  - 80 Integrated Command & Control Centres (ICCCs) have been set up
  - Remaining 20 would be completed by August 15, 2022
- The SCM was launched in – 2015 | Amount allocated to state/UT for the SCM – Rs 27,235 Cr
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

**453.** On April 21, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) and Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF) launched the "Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE) Scheme" Pan India from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF), under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, started Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE) in 31 Central Universities across India. The DAF revised the amount of grant-in-aid to Dr. Ambedkar Chairs from the present Rs 35 Lakh to Rs 75 Lakh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- DAF (under MoSJE) – started Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE) in 31 Central Universities across India
- Starting with – Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

**454.** On April 21, the AAP government launched Delhi's Education Song "Irada Kar Liya Hai Humne". The song was released by Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia at the Thyagraj Stadium in New Delhi. With this song, Delhi is the first state in the world to have a song that clearly defines their aspirations and dedication towards the cause of Education for all. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- AAP government launched Delhi's Education Song "Irada Kar Liya Hai Humne"
- Delhi – the first state/UT in the world to have a song dedicated towards the cause of Education for all
- **New Delhi:** CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

**455.** In April 2022, Telangana government withdrew an over 25-year-old government order protecting the historic Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs in Hyderabad. On March 8, 1996, the government of erstwhile (undivided) Andhra Pradesh had issued 'Government Order (GO) 111' prohibiting development or construction works in the catchment area of the Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar lakes. The total catchment area covers around 1.30 lakh acres, spread over 84 villages. The aim of the restrictions was to protect the catchment area, and to keep the reservoirs pollution-free. The lakes came into being during the reign of the last nizam Osman Ali Khan. Osman Sagar was completed in 1921, and Himayat Sagar in 1927. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said that the city no longer depends on these two reservoirs for water supply, and there was no need to continue with the restrictions on development in the catchment radius. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – withdrew an order protecting the Osman Sagar & Himayat Sagar reservoirs in Hyderabad
- The lakes came into being during the reign of the last nizam Osman Ali Khan
- **Telangana:** Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**456.** On April 21, Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray inaugurated Mumbai's first completely digital bus. This is the first-ever 100% digital bus service in India, aimed at increasing the digitisation of the bus ticketing system. The bus has a unique 'tap-in tap-out' feature. Passengers can tap in using their smart card or via the 'chalo' app installed on their smartphones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mumbai – launched its first completely digital bus with a unique 'Tap-in Tap-out' feature
- Passengers can 'tap in' using their 'Smart Card' or via 'chalo' app
- **Maharashtra:** CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**457.** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with Tree Craze Foundation began "Ganga Quest 2022" from 7<sup>th</sup> April. The last date for the quiz was 22<sup>nd</sup> May, which was observed as the International Day for Biological Diversity. The winners will be announced along with a Live Quiz on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2022. The registrations for 'Ganga Quest 2022' began on occasion of World Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. The four themes on which the 'Ganga Quest 2022' was played are - "Arth Ganga & Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", "Physical Geography & famous places and personalities", "Current Affairs & Governance", "Flora and Fauna & Pollution/Water Treatment Technologies". Ganga Quest was started in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NMCG + Tree Craze Foundation = began "Ganga Quest 2022" from 7<sup>th</sup> April
- March 22 – World Water Day
- May 22 – International Day for Biological Diversity
- June 5 – World Environment Day
- **NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar**



# International Affairs

**458.** Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral R. Hari Kumar visited Maldives April 18 to 20 and Seychelles from April 21 to 23. This was his first outing as Navy Chief. In Maldives, the CNS unveiled the first 'Navigation Chart' jointly produced by India and Maldives. In Seychelles, Admiral Hari Kumar presented a 'Navigation Chart' of Port Victoria (Seychelles), prepared by the National Hydrographic Office of India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Admiral R. Hari Kumar – visited Maldives April 18 to 20 & Seychelles from April 21 to 23
- Navy Chief handed over 'Navigation Charts' to Maldives & Seychelles
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)
- [Seychelles – Victoria – Seychellois Rupee](#) | [President – Wavel Ramkalawan](#)

**459.** On April 22, Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih ordered to ban the "India Out" campaign, terming it a 'threat to national security'. The opposition, led by former president Abdulla Yameen of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), has been spearheading an 'India Out' campaign for over the last year propagating the unproven claim that Indian military officers stationed in the Indian Ocean island nation are a violation of Maldives' sovereignty. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Maldivian President ordered to ban the "India Out" campaign, terming it a 'threat to national security'
- 'India Out' campaign – led by Abdulla Yameen (Former President of Maldives)
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

**460.** In April 2022, the Tallinn-based NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) organised the "Locked Shields 2022", the largest and most complex annual international live-fire cyber defence exercise in the world. The exercise was organised by the CCDCOE in cooperation with NATO, Siemens, Microsoft, Tallinn University of Technology and other partners. Tallinn is the capital city of Estonia. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- CCDCOE ([Estonia](#)) – organised the world's largest cyber exercise namely "Locked Shields 2022"
- [Estonia – Tallinn – Euro](#) | [President – Alar Karis](#) | [PM – Kaja Kallas](#)

**461.** India was the Guest of Honour Country at the "Paris Book Festival 2022" organized from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. At the Paris Book Festival, Indian Pavilion was designed by National Institute of Design (NID). Indian Pavilion had 15 digital and physical exhibitions displaying over 400 books published in various Indian languages representing the works of 65 Indian publishers. Cultural performances involving more than 50 artists including Ms Aparna Shreedhar, Ms Mallika Thalak, Ms Brigitte Chatigner, Ms Mahina Khanum was organised to showcase the plurality and multiplicity of the Indian Culture. [{Read More}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India was the Guest of Honour Country at the "Paris Book Festival 2022"
- Indian Pavilion was designed by – National Institute of Design (NID)
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Jean Castex](#)



**462.** “2022 Diplomatic Bluebook”, an annual report on Japan’s foreign policy issued by the Foreign Ministry, disputed the ownership of four islands as “illegally occupied by Russia” amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The dispute is over the Russian-held islands, which the former Soviet Union seized from Japan at the end of World War II. The Northern Territories are a group of islands Japan has sovereignty over and an integral part of Japan’s territory, but currently they are illegally occupied by Russia. Moreover, the island that Japan calls Takeshima is “illegally occupied” by Seoul, which calls it Dokdo. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Japan – released “2022 Diplomatic Bluebook” which is an annual report on Japan’s foreign policy
- Japan – disputed the ownership of four islands as “illegally occupied by Russia” amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Japan’s “Takeshima” island is illegally occupied by Seoul, which calls it “Dokdo” island
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

## **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**463.** On April 21, the SEBI sent a notice to NSE’s former MD & CEO Ravi Narain, asking him to pay Rs 2.06 Cr in a case related to governance lapses at the stock exchange, and warned of arrest and attachment of assets and bank accounts if he fails to make the payment within 15 days. The SEBI, through an order passed on February 11, levied a fine of Rs 2.06 Cr on Narain in the matter of governance issues over the appointment of the chief strategic officer at the stock exchange in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI sent a notice to NSE’s former MD & CEO Ravi Narain Narain, asking him to pay Rs 2.06 Cr fine
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch](#) | [Established in – 1992](#)

**464.** On April 21, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of the NPCI, announced that BHIM UPI is now operational at NEOPAY terminals across the UAE. This initiative will empower millions of Indians who travel to the UAE, to safely and conveniently make payments using BHIM UPI. NIPL and NEOPAY, the payment subsidiary of Mashreq Bank, partnered last year to create the acceptance infrastructure in the UAE. UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by the NPCI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIPL announced: BHIM UPI is now operational at NEOPAY terminals across the UAE
- NEOPAY – the payment subsidiary of Mashreq Bank
- [HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [CEO – Ritesh Shukla](#)
- [HQs of Mashreq Bank – Dubai, UAE](#) | [CEO – Ahmed Abdelaal](#)
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham](#) | [President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

**465.** On April 21, the RBI extended the guidelines on Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) to large borrowers of NBFCs and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs). The RBI advised that Non-individual borrowers with exposure of ₹5 Cr and above from banks and financial institutions (FIs) shall be required to obtain LEI codes as per the given timeline. As per the timeline, the borrowers having exposure of ₹25 Cr are required to obtain LEI by April 30, 2023. The LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems. The LEI numbers are maintained on the website of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF). [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Non-individual borrowers with exposure of ₹5 Cr & above from banks & FIs are required to obtain LEI codes
- Borrowers having exposure of ₹25 Cr are required to obtain LEI by April 30, 2023
- Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-digit number
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**466.** On April 22, NSE IFSC Ltd, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange (NSE), launched an International Sustainability Platform at Gujarat's GIFT City. GIFT City is expected to get operationalised in the second half of 2022. The platform will facilitate listing and trading a variety of sustainability products including green bonds, voluntary carbon, sustainable bonds, green real estate investment trusts (REITs), green equity, etc. The sustainability platform will use Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) or Blockchain. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NSE IFSC Ltd – launched an “International Sustainability Platform” at GIFT City, Gujarat
- HQs of NSE IFSC Ltd – GIFT City, Gujarat | Chairman – Rajiv Mehrishi

## Defence Affairs

**467.** The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy partnered with the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) to get the 'CHAFF' technology, which protects the warship from an anti-ship missile during hostilities. India is now the second country after the United States to develop this technology, a major Aatmanirbhar push in the field of defence. CHAFF is a critical defence technology used to protect fighter aircrafts or naval ships from enemy radar-guided missile during war. Developed by the Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ), a DRDO laboratory, the technology includes all three variants of CHAFF rockets namely - Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR).

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IAF + Indian Navy + DRDO = partnership to get the 'CHAFF' technology
- India is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> country after the United States to develop 'CHAFF' technology
- Three variants of CHAFF rockets are developed – by Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (a DRDO's lab)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**468.** On April 23, the Indian Coast Guard Ship (Auxiliary Barge) namely “Urja Pravaha” is inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Gujarat's Bharuch. Auxiliary Barge Urja Pravaha arrived in Kochi and will be under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala & Mahe). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ICGS Urja Pravaha – inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Bharuch, Gujarat
- ICGS Urja Pravaha arrived in Kochi & will be based in Kochi
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | DG – Virender Singh Pathania | Founded in – 1977



**469.** On April 22, Innovations for Defence Excellence, Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), under the aegis of Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence has organised “DefConnect 2.0” at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. The event was organised to attract a large number of innovators and investors from India’s leading industries in the defence sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- iDEX-DIO (Ministry of Defence) – organised “DefConnect 2.0” at New Delhi (inaugurated by Rajnath Singh)

## Sports & Games

**470.** On April 23, Ravi Kumar Dahiya and Bajrang Punia won gold and silver respectively at the Asian wrestling championships in Ulaanbaatar. With this, Ravi Kumar Dahiya became the first Indian wrestler to win three consecutive Asian championships titles, having also won in 2020 and 2021. He beat Rakhat Kalzhan of Kazakhstan to win Gold. Moreover, in men’s freestyle competition, Gourav Baliyan (79kg) won silver while Naveen (70kg) and Satyawart Kadian (97kg) took bronze. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya – became the first Indian wrestler to win three consecutive Asian championships titles
- Ravi Kumar Dahiya – won Gold at the ‘Asian Wrestling Championships’ in Ulaanbaatar | Bajrang Punia – won Silver
- In men’s freestyle: Gourav Baliyan (79kg) – Silver | Naveen (70kg) & Satyawart Kadian (97kg) – Bronze
- Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar – Mongolian Togrog | President – Ukhnaa Khurelsukh

**471.** Wimbledon banned Russian and Belarusian players from its 2022 Tournament in response to the invasion of Ukraine. The All England Lawn Tennis Club runs Wimbledon Tennis Tournament. The Wimbledon Open is scheduled from June 27, 2022 to July 10, 2022. Wimbledon, the only Grand Slam to have always been played on the same surface, is played on grass. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Wimbledon – banned Russian & Belarusian players from its 2022 Tournament namely “Wimbledon Open”
- ‘Wimbledon Open’ is played on ‘Grass’

## Arts & Cultural Affairs

**472.** On April 21, OneWeb, a company backed by the Bharti group, and New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, have inked an agreement for satellite launches. New Space’s first launch is anticipated in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The launches will add to OneWeb’s total in-orbit constellation of 428 satellites to build a global network that will deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- OneWeb (Bharti group) + NSIL (ISRO) = an agreement for satellite launching
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of NewSpace India – Bangalore, Karnataka | CMD – G. Narayanan | ED – Radhakrishnan Durairaj





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## Science & Technology

**473.** Archaeological enthusiasts from Tiruppur recently discovered three hero stones likely from the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century CE, during the rule of Kongu Cholas, at Annur in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. The team from Virarajendran Archaeological and Historical Research Centre, led by the organisation's director S. Ravikumar, found the stones near the Manneeswarar Temple in Annur in September 2021. The team managed to restore the three hero stones and place them on the premises of Dharmaraja temple in Annur on March 16, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Archaeologists from Tiruppur discovered 3 hero stones at Annur in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu
- These stones are likely from the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century CE, during the rule of Kongu Cholas
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**474.** Researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a way to make bricks from Martian soil with the help of bacteria and urea. These 'space bricks' can be used to construct building-like structures on Mars that could facilitate human settlement on the red planet. Their research was published in the peer-reviewed open access scientific journal, PLOSOne. The slurry-casting method, used to develop bricks, was developed with the help of Koushik Viswanathan, assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IISc. The team has also developed a lab-on-a-chip device that aims to measure bacterial activity in micro-gravity conditions.

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ISRO + IISc = developed bricks from Martian soil with the help of Bacteria & Urea
- The method was developed by Koushik Viswanathan, assistant professor in Department of Mechanical Engineering, IISc
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969
- Director of IISc, Bangalore – Govindan Rangarajan | Established in – 1909

## Appointments & Resignations

**475.** On April 22, the Central government appointed C. Muhammed Faizi as a member of the Haj Committee of India for a period of 3 years up to March 31, 2025. The move was taken by exercising the power of the 'Haj Committee Act, 2002'.

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- C. Muhammed Faizi – appointed as a member of the Haj Committee of India for 3 years (up to March 31, 2025)
- CEO of Haj Committee of India – Mohd Yakoob Shekha

**476.** On April 19, Shanti Sethi, a trailblazing Indian-American Navy veteran, joined US Vice President Kamala Harris's office as her Executive Secretary and Defence Advisor. Sethi is the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship. She was also the first female commander of a US naval vessel to visit India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Shanti Sethi – joined US Vice President Kamala Harris's office as her Executive Secretary & Defence Advisor
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris





**477.** On April 23, Noted economist Suman Bery took over as the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog after the resignation of current Vice-Chairperson Rajiv Kumar. Bery is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog. The cabinet committee also cleared the appointment of Bery initially as full-time member of NITI Aayog. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Suman Bery – took over as the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog (succeeding - Rajiv Kumar)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Suman Bery

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**478.** On April 16, Serial entrepreneur Babita Singh was named “Global Peace Ambassador” for promoting Peace through Education, Sports, Art, Culture & Diplomacy at the ‘India International Conclave 2022’ held in collaboration with Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) in Shangrila, New Delhi. The AAC-Global Peace Ambassador 2022 honor has been constituted by Asia Africa Consortium and is the highest honour bestowed by the Secretary General on a global citizen. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Babita Singh – named “Global Peace Ambassador” for promoting Peace at ‘India International Conclave 2022’
- The conclave held in – Shangrila, New Delhi in collaboration with Asia Africa Consortium

**479.** On April 22, Nobel prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta won the “2022 Presidential Elections” of Timor-Leste or East Timor. The 72-year-old secured 3,97,145 votes, or 62.09%, against incumbent Francisco Guterres (also known as “Lu-Olo”). The victory gives Ramos-Horta his second term in office as he had served as President from 2007 to 2012. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jose Ramos-Horta – won the “2022 Presidential Elections” of Timor-Leste or East Timor
- Timor-Leste – Dili – US Dollar | President – Jose Ramos-Horta

**480.** On April 22, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is among five people named as recipients of the “John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award” by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, for acting to protect democracy. The award ceremony is scheduled on May 22 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston. Other awardees are - Liz Cheney, Jocelyn Benson, Rusty Bowers, and Wandrea “Shaye” Moss. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Five people named as recipients of the “John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022”
- Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Liz Cheney, Jocelyn Benson, Rusty Bowers, and Wandrea ‘Shaye’ Moss
- John F. Kennedy Presidential Library – located in Boston, US

**481.** On April 21, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has awarded David Attenborough the “Champions of the Earth Award 2021” under ‘Lifetime Achievement’ category for his dedication to research, documentation and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration. Recipients are selected by the executive director of UNEP. Sir David Frederick Attenborough is an English broadcaster, biologist, natural historian and author. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- David Attenborough – received the “Champions of the Earth Award” under ‘Lifetime Achievement’ category – by UNEP
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

**482.** On April 23, Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha, Edelweiss Mutual Fund CEO Radhika Gupta and Ukrainian Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov were named by the World Economic Forum in its “2022 List of Young Global Leaders”. The list includes total 7 Indians. The 2022 Class of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) include researchers, innovative entrepreneurs, activists and promising political leaders between the ages of 30 and 40. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “2022 List of Young Global Leaders” – released by the WEF
- Total 7 Indians – are included in the list (Ukrainian Vice-PM Mykhailo Fedorov is also included)

**483.** In April 2022, Ministry of Steel hosted the “National Metallurgist Award 2021”. The program was chaired by the Minister of Steel, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh. The program aims to recognise the outstanding contribution of metallurgists/engineers working in the field of Iron & Steel covering Manufacturing, R&D, Design, Education, Waste management and Energy Conservation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Steel – hosted the “National Metallurgist Award 2021” (Chaired by - Ram Chandra Prasad Singh)
- Ministry of Steel: Ramchandra Prasad Singh | Constituency – Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Steel: Faggansingh Kulaste



**484.** On April 20, Tripura government announced health insurance of Rs 3 lakh a year for accredited journalists in the state. The health insurance will be on 80:20 basis, to be borne by the government & the beneficiary, respectively. An accredited journalist aged between 21 and 65 is eligible for being enlisted in the scheme, which is named “Tripura Journalists’ Health Insurance Scheme - 2022”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Tripura – launched “Journalists’ Health Insurance Scheme - 2022”
- Health Insurance Cover: Rs 3 lakh a year for accredited journalists in the state (80:20 basis) | Age – 21 to 65
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**485.** On April 20, Karnataka launched “Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS)”, a campaign to ensure greater awareness and early detection of pneumonia in children under five. Pneumonia is a lung infection caused by bacterial, viral or fungal infection. The under-five mortality of Karnataka is at 28/1000 live births as per SRS 2018. The goal is to reduce under-five mortality to 23/1,000 live births by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched “SAANS” campaign to detect & cure Pneumonia in children Under-5
- SAANS – Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

# Important Days & Dates

**486.** On April 19, Tamil Nadu government will observe December 18, every year, as Minorities Rights Day at the state level and a sum of Rs 2.50 lakh will be provided for the purpose. In order to enable the minority girl students in rural areas to pursue their studies without any impediments, the government would provide education aid of Rs 500 to the students of Classes 3 to 5 and Rs 1,000 to the wards of Class 6. A sum of Rs 2.75 Cr would be provided as aid to the students. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu Govt will observe December 18, every year, as “Minorities Rights Day” at the state level
- Rs 2.50 lakh will be provided for the purpose
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**487.** English Language day is observed annually on April 23. It marks both the birthday and date of death of famed writer William Shakespeare. English Language day was established by the UNESCO in 2010 to celebrate English and multilingualism. Besides, Spanish Language Day is also observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April marking the death anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- April 23 – English Language day (birthday & death anniversary of William Shakespeare)
- April 23 – Spanish Language Day (death anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes)
- UN language days:
  - Arabic (18 December)
  - Chinese (20 April)
  - English (23 April)
  - French (20 March)
  - Russian (6 June)
  - Spanish (23 April)

**488.** The 26<sup>th</sup> edition of “World Book Day”, also known as “World Book & Copyright Day” was observed on April 23, 2022. Organised as an annual event by UNESCO ever since 1995, the day is dedicated to pay respect to renowned authors like William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega who died this day. In 2022, the theme is “Read, so you never feel low”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- April 23 – 26<sup>th</sup> edition of “World Book Day” or “World Book & Copyright Day” – by the UNESCO (since 1995)
- Theme – “Read, so you never feel low”

**489.** “International Delegates Day” was established in 2019 by the UN General Assembly. The day was first observed in 2022. This year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition was observed on April 25. The day seeks to commemorate the 850 delegates from fifty countries who participated in the San Francisco Conference in 1945. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- April 25 – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of “International Delegates Day” (since 2020)



## Obituaries

**490.** On April 23, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta announced the death of former President Mwai Kibaki died at the age of 90. Kibaki served two terms as president of the East African country, ruling from 2002 to 2013. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Mwai Kibaki – Former President of Kenya – passed away (ruled from 2002 to 2013)
- [Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling](#) | [President – Uhuru Kenyatta](#)

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**491.** On April 21, PM Modi Inaugurated the “Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit” at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and World Health Organisation (WHO) director general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus were also present at the “Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit 2022”. To boost medical tourism in traditional medicine, India announced to offer special visas for those travelling to the country to avail AYUSH treatment. Government will also soon launch an ‘AYUSH mark’ for standardisation and authentication of quality AYUSH products in the global market. The “Heal in India” will be a big trend of this decade. The government is also set to create a network of AYUSH Parks to encourage research and boost indigenous manufacturing of traditional medicinal products. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit” – held in Gandhinagar (inaugurated by PM Modi)
- Mauritian PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth + WHO DG Dr Tedros Adhanom – also attended the summit
- India – to offer ‘special visas’ for those travelling to the country to avail AYUSH treatment
- Govt will to launch an ‘AYUSH mark’ for standardisation & authentication of quality AYUSH products in the global market

**492.** The “World Dairy Summit 2022” will be organised by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) in Delhi, India in September, 2022. India had last hosted the International Dairy Congress in the year 1974. The ‘IDF WSD 2022’ would be held under the theme “Dairy for Nutrition & Livelihood”. India is the largest milk producing country in the world. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “World Dairy Summit 2022” – to be organised by the IDF (in Sep 2022)
- 2022’s Theme – “Dairy for Nutrition & Livelihood”
- India – the largest milk producing country in the world
- [HQs of IDF – Brussels, Belgium](#) | [Chairman – Meenesh Shah](#)

**493.** Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, announced that the upcoming first “Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022” was scheduled to be held on May 14 and 15 at Mumbai. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, the Mumbai Port Authority, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised the two-day event. ‘Cruise Tourism’ is recognised as the fastest-growing segment in the leisure industry. Sonowal also unveiled the brochure, logo, and the conference’s mascot - “Captain Cruzo”. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- “Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022” – scheduled to be held in Mumbai (in May 2022)
- Organizers = Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways + Mumbai Port Authority + FICCI
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

## Amount & Agreements

**494.** On April 23, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) provided the approval for Rs 600 Cr to the Maharashtra government for reviving and upgrading various ITIs/polytechnics under the ‘SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF)’. The demand for skilled manpower in Maharashtra has been sharply increased due the launch of various government schemes.

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SIDBI provided the approval for Rs 600 Cr to Maharashtra under ‘SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF)’
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**495.** On April 20, an MoU was signed between Indian Navy and Larsen and Toubro (L&T) to engage L&T as a Knowledge Partner for nurturing technologies in various domains, for induction into the Indian Navy. Further, the MoU aims to bring together Indian Navy and L&T to collaborate on innovative and pioneering projects related to contemporary and emerging technologies of mutual interest. The MoU encompasses all the aspects related to Electrical, Weapon, Engineering, Machinery and Control, and Hull of a Naval Warship. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Navy + L&T = an MoU for nurturing technologies in various domains
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

**496.** On April 22, Apple Inc. partnered with Pune-based Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF) to conserve a 2,400-hectare mangrove in Maharashtra’s Raigarh district. AERF will sign conservation agreements with the local community and help protect the ecosystem. It will also partner with Conservation International to verify climate benefits of the mangrove forest and harvest carbon benefits. Apple’s initiative is part of its \$200 million Restore Fund, which was announced in April 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Apple + AERF (Pune) = partnered to conserve a 2,400-hectare mangrove in Maharashtra’s Raigarh district
- It is part of Apple’s \$200 million Restore Fund initiative
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Apple – California, US | CEO – Tim Cook



**497.** On April 20, Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre of Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO) signed an MoU with IIT Delhi, to encourage research on issues related to India's power sector and strengthen interaction between the academia and industry. State-owned POSOCO is responsible for secure, integrated operations of the national electricity grid. It comprises five Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) and the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- POSOCO + IIT Delhi = an MoU for issues related to India's Power Sector
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

**498.** On April 22, NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on children. The Sol seeks to formalise a framework of cooperation to launch the first report on the 'State of India's Children: Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development'. This effort will contribute to the realisation of India's commitments to the 2030 Agenda and provide a set of policy recommendations to accelerate progress towards the SDGs to 'leave no child behind' and achieve their holistic development. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog + UNICEF India = Sol on SDGs with a focus on children
- NITI Aayog will launch 1<sup>st</sup> report on "State of India's Children: Status & Trends in Multidimensional Child Development"
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Suman Bery
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

**499.** On April 22, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed an MoU with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) with a view to giving a boost to the export value chain. The MoU was signed for the implementation of the Agri Export Policy and to strengthen the export value chain. NRDC is an enterprise of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research established in 1953. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- APEDA + NRDC = an MoU to implement 'Agri Export Policy' & to boost the 'Export Value Chain'
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – M. Angamuthu | Established in – 1986 (functions under Ministry of C&I)
- HQs of NRDC – New York, US | President & CEO – Manish Bapna

**500.** On April 22, Kerala and the Netherlands signed a MoU for a project named 'Cosmos Malabaricus' to help further illustrate the history of Kerala in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The state will also collaborate with the European country for the establishment of paint academies in Kollam and Malappuram. The Cosmos Malabaricus project is being implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) and it will be completed in six years. The paint academy on the IIICC Campus at Chavara, Kollam, will impart training in painting buildings while the academy at ASAP Skill Sky Park at Thavanur in Malappuram will train in painting vehicles. The aim is to offer training to 380 people in the first year. As part of 'Cosmos Malabaricus, students from Kerala will get a chance to do an MA at Leiden University. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala + Netherlands = an MoU for 'Cosmos Malabaricus' project to further illustrate the history of Kerala in 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte





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