

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (APRIL 2022)

INTERNATIONAL

US announces to end policy limiting asylum at US-Mexico border

The United States has announced that it is ending a policy that limited asylum at the US-Mexico border to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Turkmenistan to promote implementation of stalled 1,800km TAPI gas pipeline

Turkmenistan will promote the implementation of the stalled 1,800km TAPI gas pipeline that will pass through Afghanistan, and Pakistan and culminate in India.

New Covid variant XE found in UK

A new Covid variant named "XE" which is a recombinant mutation of BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron strains has been found in the UK, the WHO said in its latest report.

Public emergency declared in Sri Lanka after hundreds tried to storm President's house

Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency a day after hundreds tried to storm President's house in anger over unprecedented economic crisis.

Pakistan President dissolves National Assembly on PM Imran Khan's advice

In Pakistan, President Arif Alvi had dissolved the National Assembly following Prime Minister Imran Khan's advice.

Sri Lanka restricts access to social media platforms amid unprecedented economic crisis

In Sri Lanka, the government has restricted access to major social media platforms including Facebook and Twitter to tackle growing unrest amid an unprecedented economic crisis.

Taliban order ban on poppy cultivation

The Taliban recently announced a ban on the cultivation of narcotics in Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer.

WHO pauses Covaxin supply via UN bodies

The WHO has suspended the supply of Covaxin, produced by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, through UN procurement agencies and recommended to countries that received the Covid vaccine to take actions as appropriate.

Sri Lankan opposition rejects President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's offer for unity government

In Sri Lanka, the opposition has rejected an invitation from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to form a unity government and demanded his resignation over the country's worsening shortages of food, fuel, and medicines.

Hong Kong leader Lam to leave office

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said that she wouldn't seek a second term after a rocky five years marked by huge protests calling for her resignation.

EU allies expel over 200 Russian envoys

EU nations expelled dozens more Russian diplomats amid increasing outrage over the Ukraine conflict, in coordinated moves that have seen more than 200 envoys and staff sent home in 48 hours.

US approves sale of eight F-16 combat aircraft to Bulgaria

US Defence Department has approved the sale of eight F-16 combat aircraft to Bulgaria for 1.67 billion dollars.

Peru: Protests take place across country as oil, gas and toll road prices rise

In Peru, Protests have taken place across the country, as oil, gas and toll road prices rise. President Pedro Castillo has imposed a curfew in the capital city of Lima.

Sri Lanka ruling coalition loses Majority

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's ruling coalition lost its majority in parliament after at least 41 lawmakers walked out of the alliance. The President had said he won't resign and is ready to hand over government to whoever proves 113 seat majority.

India condemns Bucha killings, calls for independent inquiry

India condemned the killing of civilians in Bucha, Ukraine, at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), calling for an independent inquiry.

US announces 100 million dollar military aid for Ukraine

The United States announced 100-million-dollar military aid for Ukraine. This is the sixth batch of US equipment aid to Ukraine since August.

Pakistan's Supreme Court set aside rejection of no-confidence motion against Imran Khan govt

In a setback for Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, the country's Supreme Court set aside the rejection of the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in the National Assembly.

Yemen president hands powers to new leadership council

Yemen's exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi has transferred his powers to a new Presidential council and dismissed his deputy.

UN General Assembly votes to suspend Russia from its Human Rights Council

The United Nations General Assembly has voted in favour of the suspension of Russia from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Cadila Pharma launches world's first novel 3-dose vaccine against rabies

Cadila Pharmaceuticals developed the world's first novel three-dose vaccine against rabies named as 'ThRabis', which is a recombinant nano-particle based G protein vaccine prepared using Virus-like Particle technology.

Australia: Prime Minister Scott Morrison calls for federal elections on May 21

In Australia, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has called a federal election for 21st May. At present, Morrison's ruling coalition holds 76 seats in the House of Representatives.

Sri Lankan doctors seek urgent medical supplies to save babies

Sri Lanka's neonatologists have made a desperate call for urgent medical supplies to treat and save newborns needing emergency care, amid a severe shortage of essentials gripping the country that is battling an unprecedented economic crisis.

Pakistan carries out flight test of Shaheen-III ballistic missile

Pakistan conducted a flight test of the Shaheen-III surface to surface ballistic missile amid the ongoing political and constitutional crisis in the country. Shaheen-III has a range of 2,750 kilometres.

Taiwan issues wartime survival handbook

Taiwan's military published a handbook advising civilians on how to prepare for a potential Chinese invasion, including where to find bomb shelters and how to stockpile emergency supplies.

India handover consignment of 3 lakh 25 thousand doses of Covishield vaccines to PM of Cambodia

The inaugural delivery of Covid vaccines under the Quad's flagship Vaccine Partnership was made in Cambodia. Quad group jointly handed over a consignment of 3 lakh 25 thousand doses of Made in India Covishield vaccines to Prime Minister of Cambodia.

Biden accuses Putin of Ukraine 'genocide'

U.S. President Joe Biden accused Vladimir Putin of committing genocide against civilians in Ukraine, as Kyiv halted humanitarian corridors in several parts of the country.

Russian warship in Black Sea 'badly damaged' by explosion

Russia's Moskva missile cruiser, the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, has been hit by heavy fire and the detonation of the stored ammunition. The missile cruiser had sunk in the Black Sea.

Japan's population logs record fall of 644,000 in 2021

Japan's population logged the steepest fall on record, dropping by 644,000 to just over 125.5 million in 2021. It declined for the 11th consecutive year.

Russia bans Boris Johnson, senior ministers over UK sanctions

Russia has banned British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and other senior ministers from entering Russia over the UK's hostile stance on its military operation in Ukraine.

Over 400 dead in South Africa floods

Gushing floods have killed more than 400 people and caused the damage of properties worth at least 684.58 million dollars at KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province in South Africa.

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appoints new Cabinet

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed a new Cabinet. The authorities said that a total of 17 members including many former Cabinet Ministers were sworn in.

Sweden witnesses anti-Muslim unrest

Several days of unrest in Sweden, sparked by a far-right group's plans to burn Korans, have injured several dozen people, the police said, calling for more resources to deal with the violence.

China, Solomon Islands sign landmark security agreement

China announced the signing of a security pact with the Solomon Islands, despite the US and Australia raising concerns over the landmark deal that could result in China setting up a military base in the South Pacific country, close to Australia.

20 mn may starve in Horn of Africa

Twenty million people are at risk of starvation this year as delayed rains worsen an already brutal drought in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, the UN warned.

Russia successfully test-launched Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile

Russia successfully test-launched a Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile. The new missile complex has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is able to overcome all modern means of anti-missile defense.

Russia claims liberation of Mariupol

Russia has claimed the liberation of the flattened city of Mariupol after nearly two months of fighting.

U.S. announces new \$800 mn military aid

President Joe Biden announced an additional \$800 million in military aid to help Ukraine fight back in its strong but increasingly difficult battle against the Russian invasion.

Taliban ban TikTok, PUBG in Afghanistan

The Taliban ordered a ban against video-sharing app TikTok and the survival-shooter PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) game, insisting they were leading Afghanistan's youth away from the correct path or direction.

Philippines: Death toll from tropical storm Agaton goes up to 224

In Philippines, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has said that the death toll from a tropical storm Agaton has risen to 224.

Maldives bans 'India Out' campaign

Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih issued a decree banning the 'India Out' campaign, now led by former President Abdulla Yameen, terming it a "threat to national security."

Physical damage to Ukraine's buildings and infrastructure from conflict is 60 billion dollars so far: World Bank

The World Bank has said that an early estimate shows physical damage to Ukraine's buildings and infrastructure from the conflict had reached roughly 60 billion dollars.

Indonesia to ban exports of palm oil as country faces shortage of cooking oil

Indonesia will ban exports of palm oil starting next week, as the world's biggest producer faces a shortage of cooking oil. It has been running low on palm-based cooking oil since November as producers turn to exports to cash in on an increase in prices around the world.

Sudan: 168 killed, 98 injured in clashes between rival groups in Darfur

In Sudan, at least 168 people were killed and 98 injured in clashes between rival groups in Darfur in the latest bout of deadly violence to hit the restive region, an aid group has said.

Nawaz Sharif given passport to return to Pakistan: report

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been issued a passport to return to his home country from the U.K. where he was seeking treatment.

UK to axe all tariffs on goods to boost Ukrainian economy

All tariffs on goods coming to Britain from Ukraine under an existing free trade deal will be axed to help the Ukrainian economy, the British government announced.

US President Joe Biden's administration expands availability of COVID antiviral pill

US President Joe Biden's administration is taking steps to expand the availability of the lifesaving COVID-19 antiviral treatment Paxlovid, seeking to reassure doctors that there is ample supply for people at high risk of severe illness or death from the virus.

Russia withdraws from UN tourism body ahead of vote on its suspension

Russia is withdrawing from the United Nation's tourism body, the UN World Tourism Organization ahead of a vote to suspend Moscow's membership over its military operation of Ukraine.

Russia stops gas supply to 2 NATO nations

Russia cut off natural gas to NATO members Poland and Bulgaria and threatened to do the same to other countries, dramatically escalating its stand-off with the West over the war in Ukraine.

Nepal bans foreign liquor, TVs to avert forex crisis

Nepal banned imported liquor, playing cards and nearly a dozen other “non-essential” goods to address the Himalayan country’s widening trade deficit and declining foreign currency reserves.

Biden proposes \$33 bn aid for Ukraine

President Joe Biden asked Congress for an additional \$33 billion to help Ukraine fend off Russia’s invasion, a signal that the U.S. is prepared to mount a robust, long-term campaign to bolster Kyiv and weaken Moscow as the bloody war enters its third month with no sign of abating.

Xi’s ‘Global Security Initiative’ looks to counter Quad grouping

A new “Global Security Initiative” put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping will look to counter the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad — the India, U.S., Australia, Japan grouping — according to Chinese officials.

German lawmakers vote to send heavy weapons and complex machinery to Ukraine

In Germany, Lawmakers voted to send heavy weapons and complex machinery to Ukraine. The petition passed with 586 votes in favor, 100 against and seven abstentions.

Sri Lanka president agrees to replace brother as Prime Minister: Lawmakers

Sri Lanka’s president has agreed to replace his elder brother as Prime Minister in a proposed interim government to solve a political impasse caused by the country’s worst economic crisis in decades.

Ecuador declares emergency over gang crime

Ecuador’s President has declared a state of emergency in three western provinces because of rising crime. Guillermo Lasso said that a curfew will be imposed, and thousands of soldiers and police officers will be sent to Guayas, Manabí and Esmeraldas to “enforce peace and order”.

NATIONAL

Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian, French Navies - VARUNA conducted in Arabian Sea

The 20th edition of the bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies - VARUNA was conducted in the Arabian Sea till 3rd of April.

Doordarshan FreeDish becomes largest DTH platform

Doordarshan FreeDish has become the largest DTH platform with reach of more than 43 million households. Information and Broadcasting Ministry said.

CJI launches 'FASTER' to communicate SC's orders

Chief Justice of India N.V Ramana launched a digital platform, ‘Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records’ (FASTER), to transmit court orders through a swift and secure electronic mode.

SC strikes down T.N. Vanniyar quota

The Supreme Court of India upheld the Madras HC judgement striking down the law brought in Tamil Nadu last year providing 10.5 per cent reservation to Vanniya, within the Most Backward Classes (MBC) community.

NMPB prepares draft scheme for promotion of Medicinal Plant Cultivation

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the Ministry of Ayush has prepared a draft scheme namely “Pradhan Manti VRIKSH-AYUSH Yojana” for promotion of Medicinal Plant Cultivation, Post-harvest management and Marketing support by involving farmers and the Ayush industry.

Govt approves setting up of seven PM MITRA Parks in Greenfield/ Brownfield sites

Centre has approved setting up of seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield and Brownfield sites.

IAF celebrates 60 years of Glorious Service by Chetak Helicopters

The Indian Air Force organised a conclave at Air Force Station, Hakimpet on 02 April 2022, to commemorate 60 years of glorious service by Chetak Helicopter in IAF.

NTAGI panel nod for Covovax for 12-17 group

The COVID-19 working group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) has recommended the inclusion of Covovax, the Serum Institute’s COVID-19 vaccine, in the national vaccination programme for use in the 12-17 age group.

New rare chemical Reference Materials to strengthen anti-doping testing

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur launched six new and rare Reference Materials (RMs) developed by the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL). Mr. Thakur said that this development will make India self-reliant in anti-doping science.

Biological E. to receive mRNA vaccine technology from WHO

Hyderabad-based vaccine maker Biological E. Limited has been selected by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to receive technology transfer on mRNA Covid-19 vaccines.

GST on COVID-related medicines, instruments reduced from 12% to 5 percent

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhury said the Government has reduced the GST on COVID-related medicines and instruments from 12 percent to 5 percent.

Government plan to establish 740 EMRSs in the country

The Union Government has decided to establish Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in every block with more than 50 percent Scheduled Tribes (ST) population and at least twenty thousand tribal persons.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur launches Broadcast Seva Portal

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has launched the Broadcast Seva Portal which will provide a single point facility to the stakeholders to request for required permission, registrations and licences.

Bill on revamping CA institute cleared

Parliament passed a Bill to revamp the functioning of the institutes of chartered accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries, with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserting that the changes will usher in transparency and will not in any way impact the autonomy of these bodies.

Haryana Assembly passes resolution on Chandigarh

The Haryana Assembly unanimously passed a resolution against a Punjab Assembly resolution, staking claim over the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Protect assets of COVID orphans: SC

The Supreme Court has directed District Magistrates (DMs) and child welfare authorities to ensure that properties and assets of children orphaned by the pandemic are protected.

HAL in tie-up to convert aircraft

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have entered into a MoU to convert civil passenger aircraft to multi mission tanker transport (MMTT) aircraft in India.

Centre extends relief to Tibetan Committee by 5 years
Centre has extended the scheme to provide ₹40 crore grants-in-aid to the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for another five years, up to fiscal year 2025-26.

Second edition of swarm drone contest launched
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the second edition of the 'Mehtar Baba' swarm drone competition by the Indian Air Force (IAF) for Indian start-ups to develop a swarm drone based system to detect foreign objects on aircraft operating surfaces.

Centre forms advisory panel for chip sector
Centre formed an advisory committee to drive the ₹72,000-crore project, Semicon India, to make the country a global leader in semiconductor manufacturing, design and innovation. The panel formed under the chairmanship of electronics and telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

SC orders Amazon, Future to move tribunal
The Supreme Court of India ordered Amazon and Future to move the Singapore International Arbitration Centre-governed arbitral tribunal to resume arbitration proceedings in a dispute concerning Future's proposed ₹24,500-crore deal with Reliance.

Chandigarh civic body wants own Assembly, UT status retained
Chandigarh demanded its own legislative Assembly, while calling on both Haryana and Punjab to develop their independent capital cities. The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation passed a resolution calling for retaining the Union Territory status of Chandigarh. At present, Chandigarh is the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

Cabinet approves distribution of fortified rice through targeted public distribution system
Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs accorded its approval for supply of fortified rice throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Services, Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN and Other Welfare Schemes in all States and Union Territories by 2024.

Cabinet approves signing of bilateral MoU between SEBI and Financial Regulatory Commission of Mongolia
Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between Securities and Exchange Board of India and Financial Regulatory Commission, Mongolia.

DRDO conducts successful flight test of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet
Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO successfully flight tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

Indian Army, DRDO successfully flight test Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition rocket system
Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System EPRS and Pinaka Area Denial Munition ADM rocket systems have been successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation DRDO and Indian Army at Pokhran Firing Ranges.

Government says nearly two lakh 71 thousand persons will be trained over five years under PM-DAKSH Yojana
The Union government has said that around two lakh 71 thousand persons will be trained over five years under Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi, PM-DAKSH Yojana.

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Indo-Pak border viewing point in Banaskantha District of Gujarat
Union Home minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the Indo-Pak border viewing point in Nada Bet in Gujarat's

Banaskantha district. The viewing point has been built on the lines of the Wagah-Atari border of Punjab.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj to celebrate Iconic Week to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as Jan-Utsav
Ministry of Panchayati Raj will be celebrating the Iconic Week from April 11 to 17 to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) as a Jan-Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari.

Foreign Secy Harsh Vardhan Shringla to be G20 coordinator
Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will be appointed as coordinator for the G20 summit, which will be hosted by India in 2023. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will remain the G20 sherpa.

First flight of Made in India HAL Dornier Do-228 took off from Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh
First flight of Made in India HAL Dornier Do-228 was flagged off from Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh. Alliance Air is the country's first commercial airline to fly Indian-made aircraft for civil operations.

India successfully flight-tests Anti-Tank Guided Missile HELINA
India successfully flight-tested Anti-Tank Guided Missile HELINA. The missile was launched from an indigenously developed helicopter at high-altitude ranges. HELINA is one of the most advanced Anti-Tank weapons in the world.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates 'Amrit Samagam', two-day conference in New Delhi
A two-day National Conference on Cooperation Policy 'Amrit Samagam' was organized in New Delhi by Home Minister Amit Shah. The Officials of Central, States, and Union Territories' Governments along with heads of around 40 Cooperative and other major National Institutions will participate in this conference.

Gujarat tops NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index Round 1
Gujarat topped the NITI Aayog State Energy and Climate Index-(SECI) Round 1 among larger states. Among the smaller states, Goa topped the index.

UGC allows enrolling for two degree courses
The University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced that students will now be able to pursue two full-time academic programmes in physical mode.

OBC entrepreneurs own nearly 30% of India's MSMEs
Entrepreneurs from Other Backward Classes (OBC) own nearly 30% of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country. As on March 31, 2022, the number of MSMEs owned by OBCs was 23.31 lakh units, out of a total of about 80.16 lakh units in the country.

Nod to extend Gram Swaraj scheme
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a proposal to continue the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), a scheme for improving the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj institutions, till 2025-26.

IMD forecasts 'normal' monsoon
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted a 'normal' southwest monsoon for this year. It also revised the definition of what constitutes average rainfall.

Pan-India electronic trading portal, e-NAM, completes 6 years
National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), a pan-India electronic trading portal has completed six years on April 14. It integrates physical wholesale mandis and markets of different States and Union Territories to facilitate online trading of agricultural commodities.

Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya opened in New Delhi by PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, or the Prime Ministers' museum, dedicated to all Prime Ministers of the country since independence. The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya is housed at the repurposed Teen Murti Bhavan in Delhi.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announces India to export wheat to Egypt this year

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has announced that India will export wheat to Egypt this year. Egypt is one of the world's biggest importers of wheat.

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan puts on hold admissions under special provisions

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, KVS has put on hold admissions under special provisions which includes admission through the Member of Parliament, MP quota.

Govt launches teleconsultation facility e-Sanjeevani at 1 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres

Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched virtually e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation facility at one lakh centres on the occasion of 4th Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

PM Narendra Modi unveils 108 ft Lord Hanuman statue in Gujarat's Morbi

PM Narendra Modi has unveiled a 108 ft statue of Lord Hanuman ji in Morbi, Gujarat. This statue is the second among the four statues being built in the four directions across the country, as part of the 'Hanumanji Char Dham' project.

India gets extension to send Afghan aid

Pakistan extended for two months the period for India to transport 50,000 tonnes of wheat and life-saving medicines as humanitarian assistance to war-torn Afghanistan via the Attari-Wagah border crossing.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar on April 19 in the presence of the Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO) Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus.

PM Modi launches India's first dairy community radio Dudh Vani

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a community radio station (CRS) "Dudh Vani" dedicated to animal husbandry on April 19 during his Gujarat tour. This is set to become the country's first community radio station dedicated to the cattle-breeders.

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Vyas gets one year extension

Centre granted an extension of one year to Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas. Vyas has worked for design and analysis of nuclear reactor fuels.

Govt. proposes law to aid lessors repossess aircraft

Ministry of Civil Aviation proposed a new law that will help international aircraft leasing companies to repossess and transfer planes out of India in case of a financial dispute with an Indian airline at a time many regional airlines have been refused planes on rent.

Tie-up between Indian, foreign varsities simplified

University Grants Commission (UGC) simplified the procedure for an Indian higher educational institution to offer programmes in collaboration with foreign universities by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with each other directly if they meet certain eligibility criteria.

President gives assent to Criminal Procedure Bill

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, which empowers the police to obtain physical and biological samples of convicts and those accused of crimes. Meanwhile, President Ram Nath Kovind has also given his assent to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which seeks to unify the three civic bodies in the national capital.

Covid Insurance extended for health staff

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) — insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting COVID-19, has been extended for a further period of 180 days from April 19.

Telangana to have largest electric 3-wheeler plant

California-based Biliti Electric Inc (Biliti) has announced that it would be establishing the world's largest electric three-wheeler factory in Telangana, with a production capacity of 240,000 EVs per year.

India's first portable solar rooftop system unveiled in Gandhinagar

The country's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

INS Vagsheer launched in Mumbai

INS Vagsheer, the sixth Scorpene-class submarine under the Project-75, was launched by defence secretary Ajay Kumar in Mumbai.

PM Modi inaugurates Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global AYUSH Investment & Innovation Summit at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar Gujarat. He also announced to create a new category for Indian VISA- Ayush VISA, so that foreigners can avail the benefit of Indian expertise in Ayush sector.

PM Modi inaugurates development projects worth ₹22,000 crore at Adijati Maha Sammelan in Dahod, Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the various development projects worth 22,000 crore rupees at a special function organised at Dahod in Gujarat. This includes the manufacturing project of 9,000 HP Electric Locomotives at the Railway Production Unit in Dahod.

Assam gets hydrogen plant

Exploration and production major Oil India Limited (OIL) has commissioned "India's first 99.999% pure" green hydrogen plant in Assam.

Naga ceasefire agreements extended

The ceasefire agreements between the Union government and three Naga groups have been extended by a year, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said.

Judges must give reasons for bail decisions, says SC

Judges are duty-bound to give reasons for granting or denying bail, especially in cases involving serious offences and hardened criminals, the Supreme Court has held.

NITI Aayog, UNICEF India sign Statement of Intent on SDGs focusing on children

NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on children.

National Apprenticeship Mela-2022 organized at more than 700 locations across the country

Skill India, in association with the Directorate General of Training, organized a day-long 'Apprenticeship Mela' across the country in more than 700 locations.

NITI Aayog targets EV push with battery-swapping policy

The NITI Aayog released a draft battery-swapping policy targeted at electric two and three-wheelers as

the government think tank aims to expedite large-scale adoption of EVs.

PM Modi holds bilateral talks with British PM Boris Johnson

During bilateral talks with British PM, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, both nations have decided to do their best to conclude the Free Trade Agreement by the end of this year. He also said, the teams of both countries are working on FTA and good progress is being made in the negotiations

India Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Conference 2022 held on April 25

The 7th edition of the India Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Conference 2022 was held in New Delhi. The theme of the three-day conference is - Vision 2047: Transformative roadmap for the future.

Agartala-Akhaura rail link between India and Bangladesh set to be completed by December this year

The ambitious Agartala-Akhaura rail link between India and Bangladesh is set to be completed by December this year, Union Minister of State for Railways Raosaheb Patil Danve said.

Govt to raise number of Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024

Centre set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras to ten thousand by March 2024.

India suspends tourist visas for Chinese: IATA

India suspended tourist visas issued to Chinese nationals; the global airlines body IATA told. India has been raising with China the plight of over 22,000 of its students enrolled in Chinese universities who are unable to go back for physical classes.

Ministry, UNDP sign pact on SDGs

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

17 lakh people got HIV in 10 years

Over 17 lakh people contracted HIV in the country in the past 10 years from unprotected sexual intercourse, according to National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair - AAHAR 2022 begins in New Delhi

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in association with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) organized Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair AAHAR-2022 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

Anganwadi workers entitled to gratuity

The Supreme Court of India held that anganwadi workers and helpers taking care of the nutrition needs of nearly 158 million children who were considered the "future resource of the country", were entitled to gratuity, a basic social security measure.

SC seeks steps for children on streets

The Supreme Court directed the States and Union Territories (UTs) that have not yet framed their own policies to rehabilitate children in street situation (CISS) to immediately implement the Standard Operating Procedure for Care and Protection of Children in Street Situation 2.0 framed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for the time being.

Centre amends defence acquisition procedure to give further boost to 'Make in India' programme

Defence Acquisition Procedure-2020 has been amended to promote 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence. Defence Ministry said that all modernisation requirements of

the three Services and Indian Coast Guard will be indigenously sourced irrespective of nature of procurement.

Border Haat at India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya opens after two years

The Border Haat at Bangladesh-Meghalaya border was opened after a gap of two years. At present, India and Bangladesh have seven established Border Haats and nine more new Border Haats are in the pipeline.

DCGI grants emergency use authorization to Covaxin for children of different age groups

Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given restricted emergency use authorization to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children. The approval has been given for the children between the age of six to twelve years.

Central govt. and Netflix launch partnership with 2-minute films

The Union government and Netflix kicked off a partnership, with the release of two-minute films on seven women change-makers, titled Azadi ki Amrit Kahaniyan.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Government to organise North East Festival from April 28

The Union Government will organise North East Festival across all the eight North Eastern States from April 28th as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Maximum all India power demand met crosses 201 Gigawatt

The maximum All India power demand met 201.066 Gigawatt on April 27. It has surpassed last year's Maximum demand met of 200.539 Gigawatt which occurred on 7th July.

Fasal Bima Pathshala to be organized under 'Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari' campaign

Fasal Bima Pathshala will be organized across the country under 'Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari' campaign. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar will chair the National level special programme on Fasal Bima Pathshala.

Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak to be launched by Giriraj Singh

Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak was launched by Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh in New Delhi. The 90-day campaign will be launched with a mission to saturate 75 Districts across 28 States and UTs with beneficiary schemes of nine central ministries.

MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar launches Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar has launched Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program. Its overall aim is to enable the creation of Microprocessors for the future in India.

Plan for 4G upgrade in LWE areas

The Union Cabinet approved a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) project for upgrading 2G mobile services to 4G at security sites in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) areas at an estimated cost of about ₹2,426.39 crore.

Cabinet approves 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric project in J&K's Kishtwar

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of 540 Megawatt Kwar Hydro Electric project located on river Chenab in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt clears nearly ₹61,000 cr subsidy for phosphate-based fertilisers for upcoming Kharif season

Union Cabinet has approved Nutrient Based Subsidy rates for Phosphatic and Potassic, P&K fertilizers for Kharif Season-2022. It has approved over 60 thousand 939 crore rupees on P&K fertilizers which is applicable for six months from 1st of April to 30th September 2022.

PM Modi inaugurates Global Patidar Business Summit on April 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) via video conferencing. Sardardham is organizing GPBS under Mission-2026 to provide an impetus to socio-economic development of Patidar community.

PM inaugurates 3-day Semicon India Conference-2022 on Friday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Semicon India Conference-2022. This three-day event took place in Bengaluru.

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant to be handed over to Indian Navy by August, 2022

The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) will hand over India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) which will be named 'INS Vikrant' to the Indian Navy next month.

Vijay Sampla appointed SC panel chief for second time

BJP leader and former Union minister Vijay Sampla has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for a second time.

Govt to launch indigenously developed e-commerce network in 100 Indian cities

The Union Government plans to roll out its indigenously developed online e-commerce network in 100 Indian cities to provide millions of Kirana stores and consumers an alternative to multinational platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal announced the test-launch of the open-source system.

Mission SAGAR IX: INS Gharial reaches Colombo, delivers critical medical aid to Sri Lanka

With the overarching aim of providing critical medical aid to Sri Lanka during the ongoing crisis, INS Gharial as part of Mission SAGAR IX reached Colombo. It delivered over 760 kgs of 107 types of critical lifesaving medicines.

LG Baggavalli Somashekar Raju to take over as Vice Chief of Army Staff

Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju took charge as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

Mandate Document of National Curriculum Framework launched in Bengaluru

Union Minister for Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan released a mandate document for the National Curriculum Framework under the National Education Policy in Bengaluru.

Palli in Jammu becomes India's first carbon-neutral panchayat

Palli village in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first panchayat in the country to become carbon-neutral, fully powered by solar energy. All its records have been digitised and the benefits of all the Central schemes are available in this village around 17 km from Jammu.

BANKING & ECONOMY

Core sector output rises 5.8%

The production of eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 5.8 per cent in February, the sharpest growth in the last four months on better output of coal, natural gas, refinery products and cement industries.

Tax collections touch all time high of 27 lakh crore rupees in financial year 2021-22

The Finance Ministry has said that tax collections during financial year 2021-22 has crossed 27 lakh crore rupees. This is five lakh crore rupees more than Budget Estimates of 22 lakh crore rupees and around 34 per cent more than in financial year 2020-21.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman says India's economic growth in current year is estimated to be 8.9 percent
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that India's economic growth in the current year is estimated to be 8.9 per cent, highest among all large economies.

Trade gap widens Q3 current account deficit to \$23 billion

India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to \$23 billion in the third quarter ended December 2021 (Q3FY22), forming 2.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and reflecting a rise in overseas trade.

External debt rose \$11.5 bn to \$614.9 bn at end Dec.

India's external debt rose by \$11.5 billion to \$614.9 billion in the three months ended December 2021, the Finance Ministry said.

RBI extends timelines for banks to use lockable cassettes in ATMs by March 2023

RBI has extended the timeline for banks to use lockable cassettes, which could be swapped at the time of cash replenishment, in their ATMs by a year to March 31, 2023.

Centre targets ₹8.45 lakh cr. H1 borrowing

The Union government aims to raise ₹8.45 lakh crore through borrowing in the first half of 2022-23 to fund the revenue gap for reviving the economy, the Finance Ministry said.

NARCL chairman Pradip Shah quit before RBI nod

Pradip Shah, who had taken charge as the chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Co Ltd (NARCL), stepped down before the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could approve the proposal, State Bank of India (SBI) said.

BoB acquires Union Bank's 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life for ₹766 cr.

Bank of Baroda has acquired Union Bank's 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (IFLIC) for more than ₹766 crore.

RBI lowers limit for ways and means advances for States to ₹47,010 cr.

The RBI has decided that on a review of the limits and keeping in view the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. The WMA limit for State Governments/UTs will be ₹47,010 crore.

Bangladesh signs deal with Adani group for Indian Economic Zone

The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) signed an agreement with the Indian company Adani Ports and SEZ Limited to set up an Indian Economic Zone at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN) in Mirsarai of Chattogram.

India and Australia sign Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement to double bilateral trade in 5 years

India and Australia signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) that seeks to almost double bilateral trade in the next five years to \$45-50 billion from \$27 billion now.

HDFC Bank reports robust 20.9% growth led by commercial, rural banking

Private sector lender HDFC Bank reported a robust growth of 20.9 per cent in advances as of March 31, 2022 on a year-on-year basis, led by over 30 per cent growth in commercial and rural banking.

Ukraine's economy could contract 40% in 2022

Ukraine's economy shrank 16% year-on-year in the first quarter of this year and could contract 40% in 2022 as a result of Russia's invasion, the economy ministry said in a statement.

Parent HDFC to merge with HDFC Bank

HDFC Ltd. and HDFC Bank Ltd. announced that their respective boards had approved an all stock

amalgamation that would see them with combined assets of about ₹27.24 lakh crore.

Imports zoom 55% to hit record \$610 bn in FY22

India's merchandise imports in FY22 hit a record \$610.2 billion, an increase of 54.7% over the previous year. Imports in March 2022 grew 20.8% from a year earlier to \$59.07 billion, and rose 87.7% from the March 2020 level.

Musk takes 9% stake in Twitter to become top shareholder

Tesla CEO Elon Musk purchased a giant stake in Twitter that makes him the largest outside shareholder in the social media stock. Musk owns 73,486,938 shares of Twitter, which represents a 9.2% passive stake in the company.

45 crore Jan-Dhan accounts opened with deposit balance of over ₹1.63 lakh cr

As on 23rd March, 2022 approximately 45 crore Jan-Dhan accounts have been opened with deposit balance of over 1.63 lakh crore rupees.

Global bond sales to surpass \$10 trillion in 2022, says S&P

Global sovereign borrowing will reach \$10.4 trillion in 2022, almost a third above the average before the COVID-19 pandemic, S&P Global Ratings said in a report.

Karur Vysya Bank's total business crosses ₹1.25 lakh crore

The total business of Karur Vysya Bank has crossed ₹1.25 lakh crore by the end of the last fiscal year.

TVS Motor Co., Jio-BP partner to charge EVs

TVS Motor Company and Jio-BP have agreed to explore the creation of a robust public EV charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers by building on the latter's growing network in this space.

Germany shuts down Russian darknet marketplace Hydra

German police said that they have taken down Russian-language illegal darknet marketplace Hydra, the largest such network in the world, and seized bitcoins worth €23 million (\$25 million).

ADB projects India FY23 growth at 7.5%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts that India's GDP growth will moderate to 7.5% in 2022-23, from an estimated 8.9% in 2021-22.

HDFC Bank plans to raise up to ₹50,000 cr. by issuing bonds

HDFC Bank is set to decide on raising as much as ₹50,000 crores in the country's biggest bond sale ever by a lender.

Mitsui to pick up 49% stake in ReNew's Round-The-Clock project

Japanese investment firm Mitsui & Co will invest in the round-the-clock (RTC) renewable energy project being developed by ReNew Power and pick up a 49% stake in it.

Bandhan-led consortium buys IDFC MF for ₹4,500 cr.

Bandhan Financial Holding-led consortium has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire IDFC Asset Management Company and IDFC AMC Trustee Company for ₹4,500 crore.

Equities saw highest FPI sell-off in FY22

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) dumped Indian shares worth a record ₹1.4 lakh crore in FY22, mainly on account of a sharp surge (globally) in COVID-19 cases.

Forbes billionaires 2022: Elon Musk tops list

Elon Musk topped Forbes' list for the first time ever with a net worth of \$219 billion. He ousted former Amazon president Jeff Bezos. With a net worth of \$90.7 billion, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) chairman Mukesh Ambani has retained his title as India's richest person.

India achieves its highest ever merchandise exports of 417.8 billion dollars

India achieved its highest ever merchandise exports of 417.8 billion dollars. Commerce and Industry Ministry said, India has achieved highest monthly value of merchandise export in March this year amounting to 40.38 billion dollars

RBI issues guidelines for banks' digital banking units

RBI said existing banks can open digital banking units to offer products and services in both self-served and assisted mode round-the-clock. In the Union Budget, the government announced the setting up of at least 75 such units in 75 districts to commemorate 75 years of the country's independence as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Tata Group unveils 'super app' Tata Neu

Tata Group unveiled possibly India's first super app, Tata Neu, that brings together grocery-to-hotel-to-airline ticket booking and medicine buying on a single platform, rivalling similar products from Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart.

RBI's Bi-monthly Monetary policy: April

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted to keep the policy rate, or the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent.

Reverse repo rate kept unchanged at 3.35 per cent.

Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate also were kept unchanged at 4.25 per cent.

RBI slashed the growth projection for the current fiscal to 7.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent earlier

Inflation forecast reduced to 5.7 per cent from 4.5 per cent.

Govt returns bank guarantees worth ₹15,000 crore to Vodafone Idea

The Department of Telecommunication has returned bank guarantees worth ₹15,000 crore to Vodafone Idea (Vi).

India's agri-exports cross 50 billion dollar for the year 2021-22

India's agri exports has crossed 50 billion dollars for the year 2021-22, notwithstanding logistical challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

6th edition of TiE's Global Summit in Hyderabad

TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs), a global network of entrepreneurs, will host the TiE Global Summit 2022 (TGS-2022), touted to be the world's largest entrepreneurship meet, in December 2022. The event, to be hosted by TiE Hyderabad.

Elon Musk rejects Twitter's offer to join its Board

Twitter Inc. said Elon Musk has decided not to join its board, a stunning twist to a week-long saga that's captivated the tech community and touched off renewed speculation about the company's future.

Manufacture of iPhone 13 begins in India

Apple Inc. has started making the iPhone 13 in India, as the U.S tech giant tries to reduce reliance on its Chinese supply chain. The phone is being produced at a local plant of Apple's Taiwanese contract manufacturer Foxconn, situated in the town of Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

WTO slashes global trade growth outlook amid war

WTO cut its forecast for global trade growth this year to 3%, from 4.7%, because of the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and warned of a potential food crisis caused by surging prices.

Sri Lanka announces \$51-billion debt default to combat crisis

After weeks of economic turmoil, the island nation of Sri Lanka announced that it would be defaulting on all of its external debt - \$51 billion - after running out of foreign exchange for imports.

Nepal restricts imports of non-essential goods after its foreign currency reserves dropped

Nepal has restricted imports of non-essential goods including cars, cosmetics, and gold after its foreign currency reserves dropped.

US inflation jumped 8.5% in past year, highest since 1981

Inflation soared over the past year at its fastest pace in more than 40 years, with costs for food, gasoline, housing and other necessities squeezing American consumers and wiping out the pay raises that many people have received.

Retail inflation rises to 6.95 percent in March

India's retail inflation rose to 6.95 percent in March this year from 6.07 percent in preceding month. Inflation based on Consumer Price Index climbed mainly due to rising food and oil prices.

Govt. completes NMP deals worth ₹96,000 cr.

The Union government has completed transactions worth ₹96,000 crores under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in 2021-22, surpassing the year's target of ₹88,000 crore.

Pinbox gets seed capital from ADB Ventures to expand micro pension coverage in India

ADB Ventures, a platform of Asian Development Bank, has provided seed funding to Pinbox for expanding micro pension coverage in India.

India to grow at 8%, says World Bank

The World Bank slashed its FY23 growth forecast for India to 8 per cent from 8.7 per cent estimated in January.

Reserve Bank of New Zealand raises interest rates by 0.5%

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand raised interest rates by 0.5 percent, or 50 basis points, to 1.50 percent. It is the fourth hike in a row as the central bank seeks to tame sharply rising inflation.

Exports rose 20%, imports 24% in March

India's exports in March rose 19.8% to \$42.22 billion on the healthy performance by sectors such as petroleum products, engineering, and leather, even as the trade deficit widened to \$18.51 billion. Imports grew 24.2% to \$60.74 billion. The trade deficit stood at \$13.64 billion in March 2021.

Bankrupt Sri Lanka calls upon diaspora to send cash

Sri Lankan government has urged its citizens overseas to send home money to help pay for desperately needed food and fuel after announcing a default on its \$51 billion foreign debt.

Govt. suspends duties on all cotton imports

The Union government has exempted all cotton imports from customs duties from April 14 to September 30, 2022, with a view to help the textiles industry cope with raw material shortages.

India's palm oil imports jump in March as Ukraine sunoil supplies halt

India's palm oil imports jumped 18.7% in March from the previous month, as traders moved to secure alternatives to sunflower oil that can no longer be bought from Ukraine, a leading trade body said.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk offers to buy Twitter for \$43 billion

Twitter revealed in a securities filing that Musk has offered to buy the company outright for more than \$43 billion, saying the social media platform "needs to be transformed as a private company" in order to build trust with its users.

Govt. approves 61 projects under PLI plan for textiles

As many as 61 applications, for projects entailing investment of ₹19,077 crore, have been approved under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for textiles, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Textiles U.P. Singh, told.

BlackRock-led group to invest in Tata Power unit

Tata Power and Black Rock Real Assets led consortium including Mubadala Investment company has entered into a binding agreement to invest ₹4000 cr in Tata Power Renewables.

Bank of India moves NCLT against Future

Bank of India has moved the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), filing a petition to initiate insolvency proceedings against debt-ridden Future Retail.

SBI to hire consultant to explore biz potential in EV charging space

Amid the government's thrust on electric vehicles (EVs), the country's largest lender SBI has decided to hire a consultant to explore the business potential of digital payments in EV charging space.

BPCL teams up with Microsoft to leverage cloud, AI technologies

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Microsoft have entered a strategic cloud partnership aimed at accelerating the firm's digital transformation and driving innovation in the oil and gas industry.

Govt amends FEMA rules to allow 20% foreign direct investment in LIC

Centre has amended rules of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), paving the way for up to 20 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance behemoth LIC.

China Q1 GDP tops forecast, expands 4.8%

China's economy grew at a faster than expected clip in the first quarter, expanding 4.8% year-on-year, but the risk of a sharp slowdown over coming months has risen as sweeping COVID-19 curbs and the Ukraine war take a toll.

SBI raises \$500 mn via IFSC Gift City

State Bank of India (SBI) has raised \$500 million through its IFSC Gift City branch, the bank said in a statement. The facility is for \$400 million plus \$100 million as green shoe option.

IMF cuts India forecast to 8.2% on war

The IMF cut its forecast for India GDP growth in the current fiscal year to 8.2%, a 0.8 percentage point reduction from January, as it downgraded the outlook for global growth citing the economic impact of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Road infra firms must float NBFCs

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said infrastructure firms should float their own non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to fund road construction-related projects.

IMF slashes global growth outlook for year 2022 to 3.6% from 4%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) slashed its global growth outlook for calendar year 2022 to 3.6 per cent from 4.4 per cent.

Russian Central Bank registers new payment system HELLO

Russian Central Bank has included a new payment system called HELLO into the national register of credit institutions.

Govt. amends rules for Nidhi companies

To protect the interests of the public and prevent potential illegal fundraising activities, the Centre has amended the rules governing Nidhi companies. Now, public companies seeking to function as Nidhis must obtain a prior declaration from the central government before accepting deposits.

HDFC to sell 10% of HDFC Capital to ADIA

HDFC Ltd. has agreed to sell 10% of wholly owned subsidiary HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd. to an arm of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for about ₹184 crore.

Adani Group to invest ₹10,000 cr. in West Bengal

Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, said that over the next decade, his group's investment in West Bengal would exceed ₹10,000 crore.

RBI prohibits issue of cards unsolicited

The Reserve Bank asked card companies not to issue unsolicited credit cards or upgrade an existing card without the explicit consent of the customer, failing which they will have to pay double the billed amount as penalty.

India extends duration of currency swap

India extended the duration of a \$400 million currency swap facility with Sri Lanka which it had concluded with the island nation in January.

Tech start-ups raised \$7.2 bn in Q1 of 2022

Indian technology start-ups raised \$7.2 billion in the January-March quarter of calendar 2022, as per the Tech Startup Investment Factbook prepared by Nasscom, along with PGA Labs.

Future's lenders rejected \$3.4 bn sale deal with Reliance

Future Group's lenders have rejected a \$3.4 billion sale of the Indian group's retail assets to Reliance Industries, adding to Future's struggles to pay off debt after it was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Country registers nearly 6 per cent growth in steel production with 31.9 million tonnes during January to March this year

India has produced 31.9 million tonnes of steel from January to March this year with a growth of 5.9 percent. In March alone, steel production stood at 10.9 million tonnes with 4.4 percent growth rate.

Oil import bill doubles to \$119 billion

India's crude oil import bill nearly doubled to USD 119 billion in the fiscal year that ended on March 31, as energy prices soared globally following the return of demand and war in Ukraine.

Ola Electric recalling 1,441 units of electric two-wheelers

Ola Electric is recalling 1,441 units of its electric two-wheelers in the wake of incidents of vehicles catching fire.

World's richest man Elon Musk acquires Twitter in 44 billion dollar deal

Twitter has announced to sell its social media company to world's richest man Elon Musk, in a 44-billion-dollar deal. The company said its board has accepted an offer from the billionaire to buy Twitter.

Labour participation dips to 40% from 46% in six years

Only 40% of Indians of legal working age were employed or were looking for jobs in 2021-22. In comparison, the labour force participation rate was above 46% in 2016-17.

Indian entities filed 1.38 lakh patents from 2015 to 2021

Entities in India had filed 1,38,000 tech patents in the country and more than 9,500 patents in the U.S. from 2015 to 2021, according to India Patents Report published by Nasscom.

TVS Motor, Petronas form racing team

TVS Motor Company said that it had partnered Kuala Lumpur-based Petronas to form Petronas TVS Racing Team.

Veranda Learning acquires test-prep firm T.I.M.E for ₹287 crore

Veranda Learning Solutions Ltd, the edtech firm, that got listed in the stock market earlier this month, announced that it was acquiring leading test prep firm T.I.M.E for ₹287 crore.

World Bank agrees to provide US dollar 600 million in financial assistance to Sri Lanka

The World Bank has agreed to provide Sri Lanka with 600 million US dollars in financial assistance to help meet payment requirements for essential imports.

Gautam Adani become world's fifth richest person, overtakes Warren Buffett

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has now reached the 5th position in the list of billionaires of the world in terms of net worth. He has achieved this position by beating 'investment guru' Warren Buffett.

White goods PLI attracts 19 more firms

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods has attracted fresh interest from 19 more companies who have applied to undertake investments worth ₹1,548 crore to manufacture LED lights and AC components.

Biocon unit bags \$90-mn insulin deal

Biocon Biologics Limited (BBL), a subsidiary of Biocon, had bagged a three-year contract valued at \$90 million from the Malaysian government for the supply of recombinant human insulin brand Insugen.

Exports of Indian chemicals register growth of 106% in 2021-22 over 2013-14

Exports of Indian Chemicals has registered growth of 106 percent in 2021-22 over 2013-14. India's exports of Chemicals for 2021-22 hit a record at 29 thousand 296 million US dollar, whereas in 2013-14 India's Chemical exports was remained 14,210 million US dollar.

ONGC inks MoU with Norway's Equinor

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, ONGC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Equinor, the Norwegian state-owned multinational energy company.

₹2.78 lakh crore of compensation released to States for 2020-21 itself

The Ministry of Finance has said that an amount of 2 lakh 78 thousand crore rupees towards GST compensation has been released to the States for the financial year 2020-21 itself. It added that currently, only for the year 2021-22, compensation of 78 thousand 704 crore rupees is pending due to inadequate balance in the fund.

LIC share sale price band set at ₹902-₹949; govt. to divest 3.5%

LIC has fixed the price band at ₹902-949 per share for the initial public offering (IPO) that is likely to open on May 4. The government aims to raise around ₹21,000 crore from the public issue by divesting a 3.5% stake in the insurance giant.

India Post bank gets nod for ₹820-crore funding

The Union Cabinet approved additional funding of ₹820 crores for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) branches for FY21 to FY23, taking the total outlay to ₹2,255 crores.

Tata's Air India aims to buy AirAsia India

Tata Group-owned Air India has proposed to buy the entire equity share capital of low-cost carrier AirAsia India, in which Tata has a majority stake, to merge into a single airline.

TVS, Rapido ink hyper-local mobility pact

TVS Motor Company announced a strategic partnership with auto and bike taxi aggregator Rapido to leverage synergies of their respective businesses in the fast-moving mobility market.

SEBI eases transmission process rules

With an aim to simplify the procedure for transmission of securities, SEBI has revised the existing threshold limit for simplified documents to ₹5 lakhs from ₹2 lakhs currently for securities held in physical mode per listed issuer

Gold demand slid 18% in Q1 as prices rose: WGC

India's gold demand declined 18% to 135.5 tonnes in the first three months of this year, mainly on account of a sharp rise in prices, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

Google begins work on Hyderabad campus, largest outside its headquarters

Internet giant Google began work in Hyderabad on its largest campus outside of its headquarters in the US.

ICICI Bank launches India's 'open-for-all' digital ecosystem for MSMEs

ICICI Bank has launched a digital service for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that customers of other banks can use as well.

Index of Eight Core Industries posts robust growth of 10.4 percent during last fiscal

Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) posted robust growth of 10.4 percent during 2021-22 fiscal as compared to the corresponding period of previous Financial Year.

Govt to Sell Stake at Pawan Hans to Star9 Mobility for ₹211 Crore

The central government has approved the sale of its stake in helicopter services providing company Pawan Hans Ltd along with its management control to Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd for an amount of ₹211 crore.

India ranks 21st in crypto gains in 2021

Investors around the world realized total gains of \$162.7 billion in cryptocurrency in 2021. United States topped the charts with an estimated realized gain of \$49.95 billion, followed by the United Kingdom (UK). India stood at 21st position with an estimated realized gain of \$1.85 billion.

Sebi cuts listing time for REITs, InvITs to 6 days from 12 days

To streamline the process of public issue of units of REIT and InvIT, SEBI reduced the time taken for the listing these investment vehicles to six working days from 12 days at present.

AWARDS

64th Grammys 2022: List of all winners in top categories

The 64th annual Grammy Awards are being held for the first time at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Indian-American singer Falguni Shah won the Best Children's Music Album award, while Ricky Kej won the prize in the Best New Age Album category

Album of the year: Jon Batiste - We Are

Best Record of the year: Silk Sonic - Leave the Door Open

Best Song of the year: Silk Sonic - Leave the Door Open

Best Country Album: Chris Stapleton - Starting Over

Best New Artist: Olivia Rodrigo

Patnaik wins Malcolm Adiseshiah Award

Renowned Indian economist and political commentator Prabhat Patnaik was named the recipient of the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award this year.

2021 EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

EY Entrepreneur of the Year™ 2021: Falguni Nayar, Founder and CEO, FSN E-commerce (Nykaa)

Lifetime Achievement Award: A.M. Naik, Group Chairman, Larsen & Toubro

Category Winners

Start-up: Vidit Aatrey, Co-founder & CEO and Sanjeev Barnwal, Co-founder & CTO, Fashnear Technology (Meesho)

Business Transformation: Abhay Soi, Chairman and Managing Director, Max Healthcare

Manufacturing: Sunil Vachani, Founder and Executive Chairman, Dixon Technologies

Services: Sahil Barua, Co-founder and CEO, Delhivery

Consumer Products & Retail: Shiv Kishan Agarwal, Chairman; and Manohar Lal Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director respectively, Haldiram Group

Life Sciences & Healthcare: Dr. Satyanarayana Chava, Founder and CEO, Laurus Labs

Financial Services: Harshil Mathur, Co-founder and CEO; and Shashank Kumar, Co-founder and CTO, Razorpay

Technology, Media and Telecom: Girish Mathrubootham, Co-founder and CEO, Freshworks

Entrepreneurial CEO: Vivek Vikram Singh, Managing Director and Group CEO, Sona Comstar

UDAN Gets Selected For Prime Minister's Award For Excellence In Public Administration 2020

The UDAN scheme, the Ministry of Civil Aviation's flagship initiative to provide air connectivity in non-metro tier II and III cities, has been selected for the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020.

IndusInd Bank wins Celent Model Bank award (Payments System Transformation category)

IndusInd Bank was awarded the global 'Celent Model Bank' award under the category - 'Payments System Transformation' for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH).

UN Names David Attenborough 'Champion Of The Earth'

Celebrated wildlife filmmaker and zoologist David Attenborough was honored with the UN Environment Programme's most illustrious title, the Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement award.

Ukrainian Prez Zelenskyy gets John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for protecting democracy

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is among five people named as recipients of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for acting to protect democracy

Kishore Das selected for Commonwealth Points of Light Award

The founder of educational charity 'Bidyanando' Kishore Kumar Das from Bangladesh was chosen for the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds.

PM receives Lata Mangeshkar Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his selfless service to the nation and society at the 80th annual Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony in Mumbai.

2022 Laureus World Sports winners:

Sportsman of the Year Award: Max Verstappen (Motor racing).

Sportswoman of the Year Award: Elaine Thompson-Herah (Athletics).

World Team of the Year Award: Italy Men's Football Team.

Breakthrough of the Year Award: Emma Raducanu (Tennis).

Comeback of the Year Award: Sky Brown (Skateboarding).

World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award: Marcel Hug (Wheelchair Athletics).

World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award: Bethany Shriever (BMX).

Lifetime Achievement Award: Tom Brady (American football).

Academy Exceptional Achievement Award: Robert Lewandowski.

Sporting Icon Award: Valentino Rossi (Motorcycle Racing).

Sport for Good Award: Lost Boyz Inc (Baseball).

Sport for Good Society Award: Real Madrid Foundation.

Athlete Advocate of the Year Award: Gerald Asamoah and the BlackEagles (football).

PERSONS IN NEWS
(National and International)

Viktor Orban

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's Fidesz party had won a fourth term in office. Viktor Orban is already the longest-serving head of government in the EU.

Arunabha Ghosh

Arunabha Ghosh, CEO of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water, has been appointed a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against global warming.

Shehbaz Sharif

In Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif has become the 23rd prime minister of the country. Earlier, the Pakistani parliament elected the Opposition's joint candidate Sharif as the country's new prime minister.

Patrick Achi

Patrick Achi has been reappointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast just a week after resigning from the post. Achi was appointed Prime Minister in March last year.

Ketanji Brown

The US Senate has confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the Supreme Court in a largely partisan vote. The Senate voted 53 to 47 to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, making her the first Black woman elevated to the Supreme Court.

A.K. Sood

Ajay Kumar Sood has been appointed Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Union government. He succeeds K. VijayRaghavan.

Ashutosh Kumar

Ashutosh Kumar has been appointed the first visiting professor to the T.N Seshan Chair at India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM), the training arm of the Election Commission.

Aprajita Sharma

An Indian official named Aprajita has been selected as vice-chairperson of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management.

Aleksandar

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has recently cruised to a second term in an election.

Vinay Kwatra

Centre appointed Ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra as India's next Foreign Secretary.

Blaise Compaore

A military court in Burkina Faso handed down a life term to former President Blaise Compaoré over the 1987 assassination of revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara.

Lopez Obrador

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador easily survived a divisive referendum on whether he should step down or complete his term — a vote marked by low turnout.

Manoj Pande

Army Vice Chief Lieutenant General Manoj Pande was appointed as the next chief of the Indian Army. He is the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the Chief of Army Staff.

José Ramos-Horta

Nobel prize winner José Ramos-Horta scored a landslide victory in Timor-Leste's Presidential election. He was awarded a Nobel prize for peace in 1996 for his efforts in facilitating conflict resolution in Timor-Leste.

Suman K. Bery

Centre appointed economist Suman K. Bery as Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog. Bery is a former Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

Prafulla Kar

Noted Odia music director and writer Prafulla Kar, who gave his voice to around 70 popular Odia films, passed away. He directed music for over 60 Odia and four Bengali movies.

Juan Orlando Hernández

Honduras extradited its former President Juan Orlando Hernandez to the United States to face drug trafficking and weapons charges in a dramatic reversal for a leader once touted by US authorities as a key ally in the war on drugs.

Robert Golob

In Slovenia, political newcomer liberal Robert Golob has defeated three-time Prime Minister, populist conservative Janez Janša, in a country split by bitter political divisions over the rule of law.

Emmanuel Macron

Emmanuel Macron has won a second term in France's Presidential election with 58.2 per cent of the vote. Macron's far-right challenger Marine Le Pen won 41.8 per cent of the vote.

Deenadayalan Vishwa

In Meghalaya, 18-year-old National Table Tennis player Deenadayalan Vishwa from Tamil Nadu met with an accident and succumbed to injuries.

Kirori Singh Bainsla

Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla, who led an agitation for several years for getting reservation for the community, died after a prolonged illness.

Rajesh Verma

Former Mumbai player Rajesh Verma, a member of the Ranji Trophy winning squad of 2006-07, passed away, following a heart attack. Rajesh, a right-arm medium pacer, was 40.

M. Vijayan

Eminent structural biologist M. Vijayan, DAE Homi Bhabha Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), passed away in Bengaluru. Professor Vijayan, who was instrumental in the development of macromolecular crystallography in India.

Kane Tanaka

A Japanese woman Kane Tanaka certified the world's oldest person has died at the age of 119 years. Kane Tanaka was born on 2nd January 1903, in the southwestern Fukuoka region of Japan.

Madhav Godbole

Former Union Home Secretary and prolific writer Madhav Godbole passed away at his residence in Pune city. He was 85. An outstanding civil servant, known and respected for his integrity, energy and phenomenal erudition.

B. Devanand

Former international footballer B. Devanand, a star of Kerala's maiden Santosh Trophy triumph in 1973, passed away at Tripunithura. He was 71.

Aung San Suu Kyi

In Myanmar, a Junta court sentenced deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi to five years in jail after finding her guilty in the first of 11 corruption cases against her.

Manju Singh

Noted producer-actor Manju Singh, best known for shows such as Swaraj, Ek Kahani and Show Time, has died after suffering a stroke.

Kenneth Tsang

Veteran Hong Kong actor Kenneth Tsang died while in a COVID-19 quarantine hotel in the southern Chinese

city. Tsang was best known internationally for his action roles in the 2002 James Bond film 'Die Another Day,' John Woo's 'The Killer' in 1989, 'Rush Hour 2' in 2001.

SPORTS

Chennai Super Kings' all-rounder Dwayne Bravo becomes highest wicket-taker in IPL

Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Dwayne Bravo became the highest wicket-taker in Indian Premier League (IPL) with 171 wickets to his name.

Lakshmi becomes first woman match-referee in WC final
Gandikota Sarva Lakshmi become the first woman ever to officiate as match-referee in a World Cup cricket final. She has been named in the four-member panel for the final between England and Australia at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

ICC Women's World Cup: Australia lift title for seventh time

Australia has lifted the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup defeating England in the final by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch. This is the record for the seventh time Australia women have won the world cup.

Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath settles for Silver

Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath had to settle for a silver medal after losing to home favorite Toma Junior Popov in the men's singles final of the Orleans Masters 2022 badminton tournament in Orleans, France.

Manika & Archana break into top-5

The Indian women's doubles pair of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath jumped two places to break into the top-5 in the latest world table tennis rankings. The duo now occupies the fourth spot.

World Doubles Squash Championships: India win maiden Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles in Glasgow

In the World Doubles Squash Championships, India's Dipika Pallikal teaming up with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa, has won mixed doubles and women's doubles titles at Glasgow.

Masters: Scottie Scheffler wins first major

World number one Scottie Scheffler cemented his place as the dominant force in the men's game by winning the Masters and clinching his first major.

Dominant Leclerc beats Perez to Australian GP win as Verstappen retires

Charles Leclerc won the 2022 Australian Grand Prix to consolidate his and Ferrari's championship leads.

IPL witnesses first Retired Out

The IPL 2022 match between Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede Stadium saw R. Ashwin become the first batter in IPL history to be retired out.

Khelo India University Games to begin on April 24

Over 4,500 participants representing around 190 universities will vie for top honours in the Khelo India University Games 2021, which commences on April 24 in Bengaluru. Jain University will act as the host university.

South Africa wraps up crushing win

Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer bowled South Africa to a crushing 332-run win on the fourth day of the second Test against Bangladesh at St. George's Park.

Sania and Hradecka duo loses in final

Veteran Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka's splendid run at the Charleston Open ended after they lost the title clash to Andreja Klepac and Magda Linette.

Netherlands lift fourth FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup title

The Netherlands lifted their fourth FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup title after beating Germany 3-1 in the final at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

Praggnanandhaa triumphs

Young Indian GM R. Praggnanandhaa, won the Reykjavik Open chess tournament with 7.5 points from nine rounds.

Mumbai City makes history for India

Mumbai City FC scripted history as it fought back from a goal down to stun Iraqi giant Air Force Club 2-1 and become the first Indian club to win a game at the top-tier AFC Asian Champions League.

Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd Indian to score 10,000 runs in T20

Rohit Sharma has become only the second Indian after Virat Kohli to score 10 thousand runs in the T20 cricket.

India to take part in 15 categories at CWG

India will be represented in 15 out of 16 weight categories in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8.

Australia appoints McDonald as coach

Australia's top cricket body appointed Andrew McDonald as national coach, two months after the shock departure of Justin Langer.

Odisha CM unveils logo of 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled logo of 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga stadium in the capital Bhubaneswar.

India to host Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023

India will host the Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023. Organised by Street Child United and Save the Children India, the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year.

Joe Root steps down from England's Test captaincy

England's Joe Root announced his decision to step down from Test captaincy after five years in charge.

Danish Open Swimming: Sajan Prakash wins gold in 200m butterfly, Vedaant Madhavan bags silver in 1500m freestyle

Top Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash won the men's 200m butterfly gold and Vedaant Madhavan, bagged silver medal in the men's 1500m freestyle event at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Chess: Indian GM Gukesh wins title at La Roda International tourney

Young Indian Grandmaster D.Gukesh emerged victorious in the 48th La Roda International Open Chess tournament, scoring eight points from nine rounds.

Tennis: Tsitsipas battles past Davidovich Fokina to win Monte Carlo title

Stefanos Tsitsipas secured back-to-back Monte-Carlo Masters titles after defeating Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in Monaco.

12th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championships: Haryana claims title

Haryana was crowned the champion of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship, beating Tamil Nadu 3-1 in the shootout after the final ended 1-1 in the regulation time.

Mehuli wins women's air rifle

Mehuli Ghosh beat former World No.1 Elavenil Valarivan 16-8 to top the women's air rifle event in the fourth National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad.

Kenya's Evans Chebet wins Boston Marathon men's title

Evans Chebet of Kenya won the Boston Marathon. Reigning Olympic gold medalist Peres Jepchirchir won the women's division of the Boston Marathon.

Asian Wrestling Championship, Mongolia: 3 Greco Roman Indian wrestlers win bronze medals

Greco-Roman wrestlers Arjun Halakurki, Neeraj and Sunil Kumar bagged bronze medals on the opening day of the Asian wrestling championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Sprint legend Justin Gatlin to promote TCS World 10K Bengaluru marathon

Olympic and world championships gold medalist sprinter Justin Gatlin was named as the brand ambassador for the 14th Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru marathon to be held on 15 May.

V.President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Khelo India University Games in Bengaluru on 24th April

The Khelo India University Games was inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in Bengaluru on April 24.

Asian Wrestling Championships: India's Harpreet Singh and Sachin Sahrawat bag Bronze medals

In Wrestling, Harpreet Singh and Sachin Sahrawat bagged a bronze each as Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers concluded their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2022 with five medals, in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia.

West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard announces retirement from international cricket

West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has announced his retirement from international cricket. Pollard, who was the captain of West Indies' limited-overs teams, played a total of 123 ODIs and 101 T20Is.

Asian Wrestling Championships: Sarita Mor, Sushma Shokeen win bronze medals

Sarita Mor and Sushma Shokeen won bronze medals for India in their respective women's freestyle weight categories at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Joe Root named Wisden's leading cricketer in the world after stellar 2021

Joe Root, England has been named as the Leading Cricketer in the World in the 2022 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. Indian batter Rohit Sharma, bowler Bumrah, New Zealand batter Devon Conway, England pacer Ollie Robinson and Proteas women star Dane van Niekerk have been named among five players in Wisden's 'Cricketers of the Year'. Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has earned the title of leading T20 cricketer in the world. South Africa's Lizelle Lee was named Leading Woman Cricketer.

Tennis: India qualifies for World Group

Aishwarya Jadhav and Sai Janvi stepped it up to help India beat Kazakhstan 2-1 in the quarterfinals and qualify for the World group competition in the Asia-Oceania World Juniors Tennis under-14 girls' tournament.

Fourteen-year-old Unnati becomes youngest shuttler in senior Indian team for Asian Games

Teen sensation Unnati Hooda, 14, was named in the Indian badminton team for the upcoming Asian Games. Hooda is the youngest Indian badminton player to be part of the Asian Games squad.

Asian Wrestling Championships: Indian grapplers win one Gold, two Silver and two Bronze medals

Indian grapplers Ravi Dahiya won gold, Bajrang Punia and Gourav Baliyan took silver while Naveen and Satywart clinched bronze medals to continue India's campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Tennis: Swiatek claims fourth title of the year

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek won her fourth consecutive WTA title this year as she swept aside Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-2 to win the Stuttgart Open.

Chess: Gukesh wins second title in eight days

15-year-old D. Gukesh won his second title in eight days by beating a strong field in Group A of the Menorca Open chess tournament in Menorca, Spain.

Deepak settles for silver again

Deepak Punia settled for a silver medal while Vicky Chahar grabbed a bronze in the 92kg competition on the concluding day of the Asian Championship.

Indian trio bags silver

The Indian trio of Vivaan Kapoor, Kynan Chenai and Prithviraj Tondaiman won the trap team silver medal behind Croatia from among 23 teams in the shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy.

24th Summer Deaflympics to be held in Brazil

The 24th Summer Deaflympics will be held in Brazil's Caxias Du Sul from 1st to 15th of May.

Sharath Kamal wins record-extending 10th National TT singles title

Sharath Kamal secured his 10th national title with a thrilling 4-3 win over G Sathiyam in the men's singles summit clash at the 83rd Senior National and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships in Shillong. While, Sreeja Akula won her maiden National crown, defeating veteran and five-time champion Mouma Das.

Tennis: Alcaraz youngest entrant into ATP top 10 since Nadal

Spanish star Carlos Alcaraz, aged 18 became the youngest player to enter the top 10 of the ATP world rankings since his compatriot Rafael Nadal did so at the same age in 2005.

Khelo India Youth Games-2021 to be organised from 4th June to 13th June

Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be organised from 4th to 13th June this year. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur virtually interacted with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal at the Organizing and Coordinating Committee Meeting to review the preparedness of the games.

Graeme Smith cleared of racism allegations by independent panel

Former South Africa director of cricket Graeme Smith has been cleared of racism allegations by two independent arbitrators, the country's cricket board (CSA) said.

Stokes named England's Test captain

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes was named England's new Test captain, replacing Joe Root, who stood down earlier this month after a string of painful defeats.

Hyderabad to host Asian Club handball league

Hyderabad will host the Asian Men's Club League handball championship from June 23 to July 4 at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium.

Boris Becker Jailed For Two And A Half Years In UK For Hiding Assets

Former tennis star Boris Becker was jailed for two and a half years after being found guilty by a British court of charges relating to his 2017 bankruptcy.

Kolkata Knight Riders Owners To Build Cricket Stadium In Los Angeles

The Knight Riders Group, owners of IPL franchise KKR, announced that they are building a cricket stadium in Los Angeles with support from Major League Cricket (MLC).

MISCELLANEOUS

China launches the world's largest electric cruise ship
'Yangtze River Three Gorges 1', said to be the largest electric cruise ship in the world, has started its maiden voyage in Yichang in Hubei province. The ship is 100 metres long, 16.3 metres wide and has room for 1,300 passengers. This cruise ship has been powered by a 7,500-kilowatt-hour massive-sized marine battery.

99% of world's population is breathing polluted air: WHO
Almost the entire world's population (99 per cent) breathes air that is polluted beyond World Health Organization (WHO) standards, posing a health risk. People in low and middle-income countries are exposed to the highest levels of fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide.

China, India add coal plants as global capacity addition dips 13%

China led global coal power expansion in 2021, with about 25,000 MW of new plants, followed by India with about 6,100 MW, reported the Global Energy Monitor.

Indonesia approves Indian labs to end stalemate on agriculture exports

Indonesian authorities have granted a blanket license to most Indian food testing labs for three years, ending an imbroglio over import of agriculture produce from the South Asian nation.

SpaceX capsule carrying 3 paying customers, former NASA astronaut arrives at International Space Station

A SpaceX capsule carrying three paying customers and a former NASA astronaut arrived at the International Space Station, finishing the first leg of this first-of-its-kind mission that will last about 10 days.

Japan's greenhouse gas emissions fall 5.1% in 2020/21 to record low

Japan's greenhouse gas emissions fell to a record low in the financial year that ended in March 2021. The 5.1 percent decline marks seven consecutive years of falls. Japan, the world's fifth-biggest carbon emitter, raised its climate goal in April 2021.

Extreme poverty in India down by 12.3 percentage points: World Bank

Extreme poverty in India is 12.3 percentage points lower in 2019 than in 2011 as poverty headcount rate has declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019 with comparatively sharper decline in rural areas, a working paper of the World Bank policy research said.

Saudi Arabia to allow one million pilgrims to perform Hajj this year

Saudi Arabia announced that it will allow one million pilgrims to perform the Hajj pilgrimage this year. Muslims from within and outside the country will be able to perform the Hajj as long as they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and are under the age of 65.

Bangladesh to cut GHG emissions by 7 percent unconditionally by 2030

Environment, forest and climate Change Minister of Bangladesh Md. Shahab Uddin has said that the country will cut Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 7 percent unconditionally and 16 percent conditionally by 2030.

India 3rd highest military spender

According to a report by SIPRI, the five largest military spenders in 2021 were the U.S., China, India, the U.K. and Russia, together accounting for 62% of expenditure. India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world.

World's highest tunnel in India will connect Himachal and Ladakh

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at an altitude of

16,580ft, connecting Himachal Pradesh to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

International Children's Book: 2nd April

The International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organized annually on the 2nd of April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

World Autism Awareness Day: 2nd April

World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on 2nd April by the member states of the United Nations. The theme for 'World Autism Awareness Day 2022' is "Inclusive Quality Education for All".

World Homeopathy Day: 10th April

World Homeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine.

Nation remembers Chief Architect of Indian Constitution Dr. BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

The nation paid homage to the Chief Architect of Indian Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar on his 131st birth anniversary on April 14. He donned many hats, being social reformer, economist, politician, who dedicated his life for the people.

International Day of Human Space Flight being observed on April 12

International Day of Human Space Flight is being observed on April 12 every year. On 12 April 1961, the first human space flight was carried out by a Soviet citizen Yuri Gagarin.

Himachal Pradesh statehood Day 2022: 15th April

Himachal Day is observed on the 15th of April in Himachal Pradesh. The state became a full-fledged state on this day.

World Art Day: 15th April

World Art Day is observed every year on 15 April globally. This day is being celebrated all over the world to emphasize the importance of art that nurtures creativity, innovation and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe.

World Hemophilia Day: 17th April

World Hemophilia Day is observed globally on 17 April every year. This day is observed to raise awareness for hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

World Voice Day: 16th April

World Voice Day (WVD) is celebrated globally on April 16 every year. The day is observed to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. This year, the theme of the World Voice Day campaign is 'Lift your voice'.

Save the Elephant Day: 16th April

Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16 every year to raise awareness about the dangers elephants face and the various difficulties they have to overcome to live.

World Heritage Day being observed on April 18

World Heritage Day is being observed on April 18 every year. This year, the theme is Heritage and Climate.

UN English Language Day: 23rd April

Every year on April 23, the United Nations celebrates English Day. The date of April 23 was chosen for English Language Day because it is "traditionally honoured as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare."

World Book and Copyright Day: 23rd April

Every year on April 23, World Book and Copyright Day is observed to promote the love of reading. April 23 is significant in world literature because it commemorates the death on this date of prominent writers such as Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare.

National Panchayati Raj Day: 24th April

National Panchayati Raj Day is commemorated every year on April 24th. The day was initially observed in April 2010 to commemorate the decentralisation of power, which is considered one of India's most significant milestones.