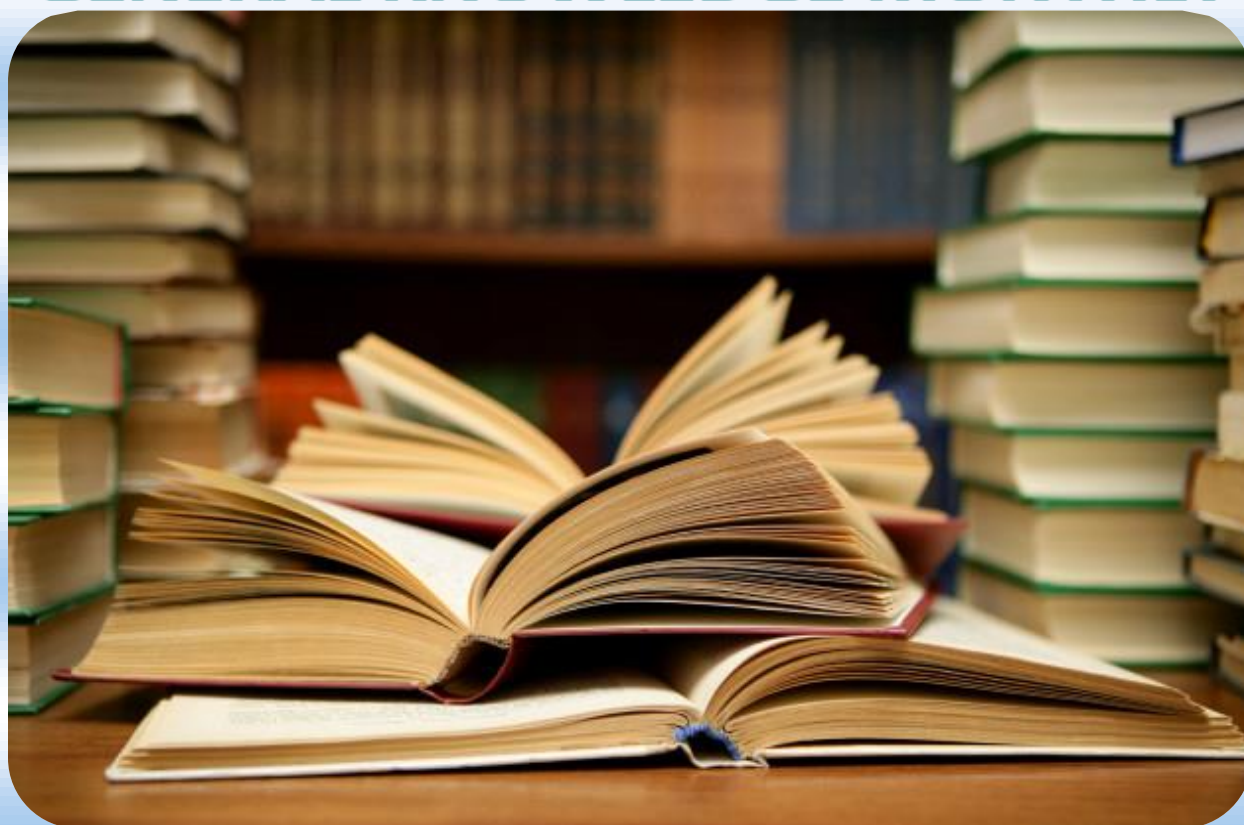


# LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



# APRIL-2022

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## ***Andhra Pradesh's First 'She Auto' Stands Set Up***

In a move to provide safe transport to women and girl students, Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati police have set up three 'She Auto' stands, the first of its kind in the state. The three auto stands have been set up in RTC Bus Stand, Mahila University, and Ruia Hospital. Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, MLA, along with city Mayor Dr R Sireesha and Urban Superintendent of Police Venkata Appala Naidu inaugurated the dedicated auto stands yesterday.

## ***MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme***

New Delhi: Union Minister Narayan Rane on Thursday launched a sustainable certification scheme (ZED) to facilitate MSMEs to adopt 'Zero Defect Zero Effect' practices and become energy efficient while improving quality through increased compliance with manufacturing processes. MSMEs can reduce wastages substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc. through the ZED certification scheme.

## ***FAO Report on Fisheries, Aquaculture Insurance***

FAO World Review of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 suggest involvement of public and private insurance providers Given the low penetration of insurance products in the fisheries sector, the FAO World Review of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 has suggested involvement of public and private insurance service providers to undertake proactive measures to turn the tide on fisheries and aquaculture insurance in India. With weather playing truant in the fisheries sector, the involvement of insurance service providers should be encouraged for the overall

## ***Google-Telangana MoU on Using Tech for Development***

Global tech giant Google Thursday announced its collaboration with the Telangana government and signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to support and accelerate the state's vision of leveraging technology for sustainable economic development and inclusive social development. From extending Google Career Certificate scholarships to Telangana's youngsters to make them job-ready, the company will collaborate with the government through its various arms to support women entrepreneurs through digital, business and financial skills training, and strengthen the government's school modernization efforts with digital teaching and learning tools and solutions, said an official release.

### ***Study: Use of Disposable Masks in Cement Mixture***

With single-use masks during the pandemic now presenting an environmental problem, researchers have demonstrated the idea of incorporating old masks into a cement mixture to create stronger, more durable concrete. If they are not reused, disposable masks can remain in the environment for decades and pose a risk for the ecosystem. In a paper published in the journal *Materials Letters*, researchers showed that the mixture using mask materials was 47% stronger than commonly used cement after a month of curing, Washington State University said in a press release.

### ***Mandatory Reporting of Cyber Incidents***

India's nodal cybersecurity agency, Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), has directed all service providers, intermediaries, data center providers, corporates, and government organizations to report cyber incidents within six hours of their detection.



### ***Declaration for the Future of the Internet***

India is not among the 60 countries that have signed a global declaration to keep the Internet open, free, and neutral. The countries that have signed the declaration include the US, European Union, United Kingdom, Canada and France. Called the 'Declaration for the Future of the Internet', the document is an agreement to prevent digital authoritarianism. "Globally, we are witnessing a trend of rising digital authoritarianism where some states act to repress freedom of expression, censor independent news sites, interfere with elections, promote disinformation, and deny their citizens other human rights."

### ***Registration of Overseas Voters***

Lamenting that the number of registered overseas voters is "abysmally low", Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra has told members of the Indian community in South Africa and Mauritius that the facility to extend postal ballot facility for NRI electors is being contemplated. According to an official statement issued by the Election Commission, Chandra interacted members of the Indian community during his official visit to the two countries and urged them to register as overseas voters as the present numbers are "abysmally low".



### ***UK-India Partnership in Nuclear Energy and Innovation***

New Delhi [India], April 22 (ANI): Amid the visit of the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to India, the two countries signed a number of agreements including two government-to-government Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) on Nuclear Energy Partnership and Global Innovation Partnership.



### ***All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey***

The All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey, usually conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every five years, is set to resume this year after a prolonged break. India hasn't had any official estimates on per capita household spending, used to arrive at estimates of poverty levels in different parts of the country and to review economic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), since 2011–12. The government had junked the findings of the last Survey, conducted in 2017–18, citing “data quality” issues.



### ***Recommendation of Corbevax Jab for 5-12 years***

The subject expert panel on Covid-19 vaccines on Thursday recommended emergency use authorisation for Hyderabad-based Biological E's Corbevax for the 5-11 years age group subject to conditions, Health Ministry sources said. According to sources, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) will take up the recommendation for formal approval in the next few days. If approved, Corbevax will become the first Covid-19 vaccine for this age group in India. The US and the UK have been administering Pfizer's mRNA vaccine for children aged five and above.

### ***'Dudh Vani' Community Radio Station***

During the course of his three-day Gujarat tour, the Prime Minister will inaugurate a potato processing plant, dedicate to the nation an organic manure and biogas plant at Dama, and lay the foundation stone of four gohar gas plants of 100 tonnes capacity April 17 Dairy farmers in Gujarat will get a voice, quite literally, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates a community radio station (CRS) — Dudh Vani — dedicated to animal husbandry on Tuesday during his Gujarat tour. Set up by the Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union or Banas Dairy, the Banas Dairy Community Radio station will connect over five lakh dairy farmers across 1,700 villages in the State.

### ***Cosmos Malabaricus Project***

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala and the Netherlands have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a project named 'Cosmos Malabaricus' that will help further illustrate the history of Kerala in the 18th century. The state will also collaborate with the European country for the establishment of paint academies in Kollam and Malappuram. The agreements were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and The Netherlands' Ambassador to India, Marten van den Berg.



### ***What is a 'Battery Passport'?***

German-funded consortium of carmakers and battery producers, including BMW, Umicore and BASF, is to develop a "battery passport" that traces the content and carbon footprint of batteries in Europe, Germany's economy ministry said on Monday.





### ***Palli: India's First 'Carbon-neutral Panchayat'***

The nondescript hamlet of Palli in Jammu and Kashmir's border district of Samba on Sunday became the country's first 'carbon neutral panchayat' with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi dedicating to the nation a 500 KV solar plant, installed in a record time of nearly three weeks. Expressing happiness over Palli becoming the first Panchayat in the entire country to have clean and green power, the PM said, "Palli has shown the way to the country by becoming carbon neutral.



### ***New Indian Mission in Lithuania***

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to open a new Indian embassy in Lithuania, the first full-fledged embassy in the Baltic region, currently at the forefront of forging a more aggressive European position against Russia over the Ukraine war. Lithuania is also at the centre of a diplomatic spat with China over the opening of a de-facto embassy by Taiwan.



### ***"Enterprise India" Initiative***

Enterprise India is a month-long initiative of the MSME Ministry that will be held between April 27-May 27, 2022 to spread awareness about the schemes and initiatives of MSME Ministry. Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane inaugurated the Ministry's Mega Event "Enterprise India" under the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on April 27, 2022. Enterprise India is a series of commemorative entrepreneurship development events and activities that will be organised between April 27 and May 27, 2022. The event is being held to promote entrepreneurship culture in the country and spread awareness about the schemes and initiatives of MSME Ministry.

### ***Agra: Vacuum-based Sewer System***

The city of Taj Mahal, Agra, has become the first city in the country to have vacuum-based sewers. These vacuums will be used in public places. Agra Smart City officials told India Today that the corporation has connected 240 such houses near the Taj Mahal with vacuum-based sewer where conventional sewer systems can not be used. "Being in a 'low-lying' area, these homes are connected to a vacuum-based sewer. About 112 chambers have been made in this area, in which the sensor is also installed. The system of the vacuum sewer will automatically issue an alert if there is a choke or any other problem," he further added.

### ***Financial support to IPPB***

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an additional funding of Rs 820 crore for India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) that will be utilised for expansion of its services to all post offices in the country. Briefing the media, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that out of the little over 1.56 lakh post offices, IPPB, currently operates from 1.3 lakh post offices. He also said the Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for future fund infusion worth Rs 500 crore into IPPB for meeting regulatory requirements and technological upgradation. "IPPB is going to expand its banking service to 1,56,434 post offices and for decision has been taken to invest Rs 820 crore in it so that poorest of the poor, mothers and sisters living in rural areas can get access to banking facility," Thakur said.

### ***Delhi- Punjab 'Knowledge-sharing agreement'***

A knowledge-sharing agreement was signed on Tuesday between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Singh Mann, who said 117 schools and mohalla clinics will be developed in the state recently won by AAP. Mann said that education, health and power were a priority of his government and Punjab can learn from Delhi where a lot of work was done in these fields. Delhi can also learn from Punjab about agriculture, he said. Kejriwal said India will progress if every state starts learning from the good work done by others.

### ***Scrapping of MP, DM quota in KV schools***

The Education Ministry has scrapped quotas in several categories including that of Member of Parliament (MP) and District Magistrate (DM) for admissions to Kendriya Vidyalayas, according to the latest circular issued by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS). Earlier, the KVS had put on hold all discretionary quotas, including the MP quota, for admissions to KV schools across the country, following a review. "In a revolutionary step to streamline admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas and improve the quality of education, it has been decided to discontinue several discretionary quotas which were beyond the approved students' strength," government sources told ANI.

### ***What is 'GAGAN Satellite Technology'?***

The Airports Authority of India successfully conducted a light trial using the GAGAN satellite navigation system for the landing of an ATR72 aircraft belonging to IndiGo at the Kishangarh Airport in Rajasthan last week. AGAN is a system jointly developed by the Airports Authority of India and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with US defence contractor Raytheon at an estimated cost of Rs 774 crores.



### ***Tripura- NIXI World-Class Data Centre***

The Tripura government has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre to establish an international standard Data Centre here, an official said on Wednesday. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and CSE e-governance services Ltd, have floated a joint venture - NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre to set up the proposed data centre.



### ***Indian-Brazil Alliance for Bioenergy and Biofuels***

The union minister of petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri and the minister of mines and energy of Brazil, Bento Albuquerque have agreed on the need to reinforce the promotion of sustainable bioenergy and biofuels at the global level. It would diversify options for energy security, boost rural development, bring about technological and industrial innovation, and create jobs and opportunities while reducing local and global emissions, said a joint statement from both the ministers. They also agreed that a thriving international market for sustainable bioenergy and biofuels will be essential to the design of low-carbon global vehicle platforms.



### ***Suman Bery – New Vice-chairperson of NITI Aayog***

Noted economist Suman K Bery will take charge as the vice-chairman of the government's think tank Niti Aayog on May 1 and will remain in the office till further orders, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet said late Friday. He will replace Rajiv Kumar who has resigned from the post, but will continue in office till April 30. Bery will join the think tank as a full-time member with immediate effect.

### ***What are new Guidelines issued by RBI on Issuance of Credit and Debit Cards?***

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released master directions for credit and debit card issuance in the year 2022. These fresh guidelines will come into effect from July 1, 2022. The guidelines apply to banks excluding payment banks, state co-operative banks, and district central co-operative banks. Also, all NBFCs operating in India should follow the new norms of card issuance.

### ***The merger of HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd has been announced***

HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh on Monday said various regulations for banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) have been harmonised over the last few years, thereby enabling the potential merger of HDFC Ltd with HDFC Bank. "Regulatory changes over the past three years have reduced barriers for merger," Parekh said. "NPA classification is same for NBFCs and banks.

### ***PNB implements Positive Pay System compulsory for cheque payments worth Rs 10 lakh***

Public sector lender Punjab National Bank from April 4, 2022, Monday, has implemented the Positive Pay System (PPS) being compulsory for cheque payments worth Rs 10 lakh and above. This is being done as a move to protect its over 180 million customers from any security threats. The bank had announced to make Positive Pay System mandatory last month, and the same has been implemented today.

### ***Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea will get GI Tag from European Commission***

SHIMLA : Famous for its distinct flavour, Kangra tea will soon get a Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the European Commission. This will open the European markets for the product.



# INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## *World Day for Safety and Health at Work*

World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2020: It is observed on 28 April and promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases across the world. As per the UN, across the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong OSH system was seen, which included meaningful participation of governments, employers, workers, public health actors, and all relevant parties at the national and enterprise level, was pivotal in protecting working environments and safeguarding the safety and health of workers.



## *Global Security Initiative*

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. Mr. Xi last week first proposed what he called a Global Security Initiative, speaking at the Boao Forum in China, warning against “hegemonism, power politics and bloc confrontation”.



### ***Perseverance: Capture of 'Solar Eclipse on Mars'***

NASA's Perseverance Mars rover captured this sped-up video of an eclipse featuring Phobos, one of Mars' two moons. The video taken by Perseverance rover is the most zoomed-in, highest-frame-rate observation of a Phobos solar eclipse ever taken from the Martian surface.



### ***Re-election of French President Emmanuel Macron***

Emmanuel Macron's decisive victory over Marine Le Pen in the second round of France's presidential election on April 24, 2022 is no surprise. For more than a year, opinion polls had been predicting it. As early as April 2021, the leading polling institutes (Elabe, Harris interactive, Ifop, Ipsos) estimated the final score of the outgoing president in a range of 54-57 per cent of the vote. And when it came down to the final night, Macron made it through all the campaign's twists and came out unscathed, with 58.8 per cent of the vote.



### ***European Union New Internet Rules***

The European Union agreed on new digital regulations Saturday that will force tech giants like Google and Meta to police illegal content on their platforms more aggressively, or else risk potential multibillion-dollar fines. The European Parliament and EU member states reached a deal on the Digital Services Act, a landmark piece of legislation that aims to address illegal and harmful content by getting platforms to rapidly take it down. Margrethe Vestager, the EU competition chief and a key architect of the bloc's digital reforms, said the deal is "better than the proposal that we tabled" back in 2020.



### ***Elon Musk-Twitter Deal***

The board of Twitter has agreed to a \$44bn (£34.5bn) takeover offer from the billionaire Elon Musk. Mr Musk, who made the shock bid less than two weeks ago, said Twitter had "tremendous potential" that he would unlock. He also called for a series of changes from relaxing its content restrictions to eradicating fake accounts. The firm initially rebuffed Mr Musk's bid, but it will now ask shareholders to vote to approve the deal.



### ***Dispute over Kuril Islands***

Japan for the first time said that Russia has illegally occupied four islands near the Kamchatka Peninsula. The Japanese have called these islands - the Northern Territories - while Russia calls them the Kurils. The chain of islands stretches north across the Pacific Ocean from the Japan's Hokkaido to the southernmost tip of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. These islands have been a longstanding issue between Moscow and Tokyo and the Fumio Kishida-led government in Tokyo have upped their ante over the ownership of the islands. This is the first time in almost 20 years that Japan has called the islands 'illegally occupied'.

### ***'Angel Wing': Image of Merging Galaxies***

The Hubble Space Telescope has recorded a stunning image of two merging galaxies in the VV-689 system that appear to be shaped like wings. The two galaxies are currently in the middle of a collision and have been nicknamed Angel Wing. The interaction between the two galaxies is almost symmetrical, hence appearing to resemble wings.



## ***World Intellectual Property Day***

World Intellectual Property Day 2022: World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on April 26 to raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property (IP) rights in fostering innovation and creativity. World Intellectual Property 2022 highlights the enormous potential of young people to develop something new and provide better solutions to help the world transition to a more sustainable future.



## ***Russia's Withdrawal from UNWTO***

MADRID: Russia is withdrawing from the United Nation's tourism body, the UN world tourism organization said on Wednesday ahead of a vote to suspend Moscow's membership over its invasion of Ukraine. "Russia has announced its intention to withdraw from UNWTO," the UNWTO said in a tweet adding that Russia's suspension "is effective immediately".



## ***UNDRR Global Assessment Report (GAR 2022)***

The central question for this Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 (GAR2022) is how governance systems can evolve to better address the systemic risks of the future. In today's crowded and interconnected world, disaster impacts increasingly cascade across geographies and sectors, as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and climate change are rapidly making clear. Despite progress, risk creation is outstripping risk reduction. Disasters, economic loss and the underlying vulnerabilities that drive risk, such as poverty and inequality, are increasing just as ecosystems and biospheres are at risk of collapse.

### ***What is a 'Battery Passport'?***

German-funded consortium of carmakers and battery producers, including BMW, Umicore and BASF, is to develop a "battery passport" that traces the content and carbon footprint of batteries in Europe, Germany's economy ministry said on Monday.



### ***International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace***

United Nations Member States, by ratifying or accepting the UN Charter, have committed themselves to the values of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace. But as we mark this year's International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, this commitment is being broken. The principles at the heart of multilateral cooperation are under the greatest strain since the founding of the United Nations.

