

A P R I L 2 0 2 2

**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WILEY

NATIONAL

- ③ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day Semicon India 2022 conference, which was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It was organized by India Semiconductor Mission in partnership with industry associations. The theme was to catalyze India's Semiconductor Ecosystem, to make India a global hub for Semiconductor Design, Manufacturing, and Technology Development which will help propel the vision of the India Semiconductor Mission. India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is an Independent Business Division within Digital India Corporation having administrative and financial autonomy to formulate strategies for developing the semiconductor ecosystem.
- ③ On April 28, World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed across the globe. This day also coincides with the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers. This day generates the promotion and awareness of ways that can help prevent occupational accidents and diseases across the world. This day represents the maintenance and development of a robust Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) management system.
- ③ Quotas in several categories including that of District Magistrate (DM) and Member of Parliament (MP) have been scrapped by the Education ministry for admissions to Kendriya Vidyalayas. This has been done with the objective of improving the quality of education and streamlining admissions in Kendriya Vidyalas. The discretionary quotas had also distorted the ST/SC/OBC reservations in the KVs. Even in 2021-22, the ministry of education did not recommend admission under this quota. MPs could recommend up to ten cases for admission and this has also been discontinued. Earlier, there were provisions of 1000s of admissions under the quotas of Chairpersons of the Vidyalaya Management Committees, that is, District Collectors, and sponsoring agencies have now been discontinued,
- ③ A central accident database management system has been launched by the central government that will help in analyzing the causes of road accidents and devise safety interventions with

the aim of reducing such accidents in India. The name of the system is the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD). It is an initiative of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has developed this system. This system is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre. The cost of the project is Rs 258 crore and it has been supported by the World Bank. In the year 2019, the iRAD was proposed but its implementation got delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ③ On April 27, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval to invest Rs 4,526.12 crore for the 540 MW Kwar Hydro-electric project that is located on Chenab River, Kishwar district, Jammu & Kashmir. This upcoming hydroelectric project is a part of the Indus basin. This project is a part of one of the four projects that are coming up in the district. The projects include the 624 MWs run-of-the-river Kiru hydroelectric project and the 1,000 MWs Pakal Dul hydroelectric project.

ECONOMY

- ③ The Reserve Bank of India led by Governor Shaktikanta Das has released the monetary policy update for April 2022.
- Policy Rates:
- The Policy Repo Rate has been kept unchanged at 4 percent.
 - The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate remains unchanged at 4.25 percent.
 - The Bank Rate also remains unchanged at 4.25 percent.
 - Reverse Repo Rate is 3.35 percent.
 - The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is 4 percent.
 - The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) is 18 percent.
- ③ A cardless cash withdrawal facility has been made available at all ATMs by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This facility will be made available via the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) irrespective of the bank. This decision was made by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI. All banks have been given permission by the RBI to introduce cash-less cash withdrawals through ATMs. At present, cardless cash withdrawal is

offered by only a few banks in India through an on-us basis that is, for their own customers at their own respective ATMs.

- ⊙ For the fiscal year 2022-23, India's GDP forecast has been slashed by the World Bank from 8.7 percent to 8 percent. The reason given for the change in forecast is due to rising inflation and worsening global supply caused due to the Russia-Ukraine war. South Asia's growth outlook, excluding Afghanistan has also been slashed to 6.6 percent. According to the World Bank, India's household consumption will be constrained due to the labour market's incomplete recovery from inflationary and COVID-19-related pressures. High food and oil prices due to the war in Ukraine will also have a negative impact on the real incomes of the people.
- ⊙ Crypto lender Nexo has collaborated with Mastercard to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card. This launch has signaled the move by financial and crypto networks to collaborate as digital assets are becoming more mainstream. Initially, the card will be available in selected European countries. It will allow users to spend without selling their digital assets like bitcoin, as the digital assets are used as collateral to back the granted credit. The crypto-backed credit card can be used at 92 million merchants across the world wherever Mastercard is accepted. Through this card the investors will be able to spend up to 90 percent of the fiat value of the crypto assets that they own.
- ⊙ The international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has announced that across the UAE, BHIM UPI is live on NEOPAY terminals. This initiative will be empowering the millions of Indians who travel to the UAE to make payments in a convenient and safe manner. The payments can be made using BHIM UPI across the NEOPAY-enabled merchant stores and shops.
- ⊙ India and the United Kingdom have launched their Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) as both countries look to bolster their innovation ecosystem to benefit the start-ups. GIP is expected to provide a model for utilizing the Trilateral Development Corporation (TDC) Fund for projects with other countries like Germany, Japan, the European Union, France, etc that are willing to work with India on the field of

development and innovation. The GIP will be co-financed by India and the UK.

- ⊙ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the financial support of Rs 820 crore for the India Post Payments Bank. This monetary support will help the state-run payments bank penetrate deeper into the nation, especially in the country's rural areas, and will work towards boosting financial inclusion. IPPB has more than five crore accounts currently and is operating through 1.36 lakh branches. IPPB plays an instrumental role to carry out the various social objectives of the central government. This support will help the bank to advance the financial inclusion agenda of the government, especially in the country's rural areas.
- ⊙ HDFC's board of directors has approved the merger of HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank with HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation), India's largest housing finance firm. Overview: The deal will be building the housing loan portfolio of the bank and will also be enhancing its existing customer base.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ⊙ India has achieved a major landmark after the Airports Authority of India (AAI) successfully conducted a trial by applying the latest indigenous satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) technology named GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation). IndiGo became the first airline in Asia that used the indigenously developed satellite-based navigation system while landing at the Kishangarh airport, Rajasthan. India is the first country in the Asia Pacific region that has achieved this.

SPORTS

- ⊙ On 16th April 2022, the 2022 edition of the Invictus Games opened in The Hague, Netherlands. The Games are being held from 16th to 22nd April. The Invictus Games' first edition was held in London in the year 2014. The games have been held in Orlando, the US in 2016, Toronto, Canada in 2017, and Sydney, Australia in 2018. Dusseldorf, Germany will be hosting the 2023 edition of the games.



- ⊙ The Victoria state of Australia will be hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games. During the games focus will also be given to boosting the economy of the region. An exclusive negotiating period was granted to the capital of Victoria, Melbourne, to secure the hosting rights for the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games, are losing relevance, with four of the last five editions being held in Britain or Australia. To host the 2026 editions of the Games, no other nation expressed interest except Australia. The 2026 Games will be spread across the cities of Bendigo, Geelong, Gippsland, and Ballarat thus a new multi-city model will be implemented.
- ⊙ Dipika Pallikal won the mixed doubles and women's doubles championships at the World Doubles Squash Championships teaming up with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa respectively. Teaming up with Saurav Ghosal, Dipika first clinched the mixed doubles title with an 11-6, 11-8 win over Alison Waters and Adrian Waller of England. An hour and a half after winning the mixed doubles, she teamed up with Joshna Chinappa to win the women's doubles final with an 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 win over Sarah Jane Perry and Alison Waters who were representing England. India had never won gold in the World Doubles Squash Championships and this is the first time the country has won the gold medal in this tournament. The men's doubles were won by Declan James and James Willstrop of England. In Glasgow, Scotland, this year's event was held.
- ⊙ 2021 Khelo India University Games logo was unveiled recently. It will be held in Karnataka from 24th April 2022. At the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru the logo was unveiled. The Jain University, Bengaluru will be hosting this event from 24th April to 3rd May 2022. Anurag Thakur, Union Sports Minister, and Karnataka Governor TC Gehlot were present during the launch event. This event was postponed earlier due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This edition will be the second edition of the games. The first edition of the Khelo India University Games was held in Odisha in 2020. The official jersey for the games was also launched. The anthem for the 2021 Khelo India University Games has been sung by Nikhil Joshi and Chandan Shetty. Mallakhamb and Yogasana along with 18 other sports will be featured in the upcoming games. Nearly 4,500 athletes will be participating from

across India. An app named Khelo India App was also launched by the state for providing live updates on the Games. The official mascot of the Games is 'Veera', an elephant.

PERSON IN NEWS

- ⊙ Viktor Orbán has again been elected as the Prime Minister of Hungary for the fourth time. He won the 4th term by a huge margin more than what was predicted in the pre-election polls.



After the win, he addressed a jubilant crowd who were chanting his name. Many people in the gathering wore the orange party colour of Fidesz, the party of Viktor Orbán. He is the longest-serving head of a government in the European Union.

- ⊙ On 24th April 2022, Marine Le Pen has been defeated by Emmanuel Macron to be re-elected as the President of France.



Leaders across the world welcomed his re-election. Marine Le Pen is a far-right leader who was defeated by Macron. Macron is the first French sitting president in the past 20 years to have been re-elected.

- ◎ The central government appointed economist Suman Bery as the vice-chairman of NITI Aayog after Rajiv Kumar resigned from the post on 22nd April 2022. Kumar had been appointed as the vice-chairperson of NITI Aayog five years ago. The cabinet committee had accepted Rajiv Kumar's resignation and appointed Suman Bery as NITI Aayog's full-time member and later as the vice-chairperson.

He will be taking up this post from 1st May 2022.

- ◎ Lieutenant General Manoj Pande will be replacing General Manoj Mukund Naravane as the 29th chief of the Indian Army. Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has become the first engineer to become the chief of army staff (COAS). He will be taking charge of this post from 1st May 2022. On 1st February he replaced Lieutenant General CP Mohanty as the vice army chief.
- ◎ Samia Suluhu Hassan is a politician of Tanzania and is currently serving as the country's sixth. She is a member of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party that is currently ruling the country. She is Tanzania's first female president. She is the third woman head of government of a country in the East African Community. The other two female heads of government are Agathe Uwilingiyimana in Rwanda and Sylvie Kinigi in Burundi. On 19th March 2021 she took office after President John Magufuli's death on 17th March 2021.
- ◎ On April 11, Shehbaz Sharif took oath as Pakistan's 23rd prime minister. Senate chairperson Sadiq Sanjarani administered the oath to Sharif. After Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the former foreign minister announced that his party Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf will be boycotting the PM polls,



Shehbaz Sharif was elected as the Prime Minister unopposed. After securing 174 votes (the requirement for a majority is 172), Sharif was declared the prime minister of the country. Speaker Ayaz Sadiq announced the result as he presided over the National Assembly session.

- ◎ Aleksandar Vučić has been re-elected as the President of Serbia. The pollster organizations CeSID and Ipsos had predicted victory for Vucic. The pro-European and centrist Alliance for Victory coalition was represented by Zdravko Ponos, a retired army general. The pollsters had predicted that Vucic's Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) would win most of the votes with 43 percent and they would be followed by the United for Victory of Serbia opposition.
- ◎ The Indian government has named Vinay Mohan Kwatra who is the country's ambassador to Nepal, as India's next Foreign Secretary. He will be taking charge after incumbent Harsh Vardhan Shringla retires on 30th April. Vinay Mohan Kwatra is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and has 32 years of experience working in a range of assignments. From 2015 to 2017, he has worked in the Prime Minister's office and then went to France as the ambassador of India.

PLANS AND POLICIES

- ◎ Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forward a new Global Security Initiative. According to the Chinese president, the initiative is to promote security for all in the world and to oppose unilateralism, and group politics and bloc confrontation. The initiative is aimed at countering the initiatives of west like the Indo-Pacific strategy of the USA, the Quad and the AUKUS (Australia-U.K.-U.S.) security pact.
- ◎ With the marginal and small farmers of the country getting a raw deal regarding the waivers of farm loans, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is planning to create a farmer distress index (FDI) with the aim of tracking, identifying, and supporting the real distressed and needy farmers of India. Depending on the distress level, the financial institutions and the government can decide on an appropriate support package instead of

handing out a distress package to all the farmers as is the current practice. This index won't be uniform across the nation as it will be changing depending upon the place's stress levels. This index will help the government departments, financial sector, and insurance companies. The distress of a farmer is generally calculated by the extent of damage to their crops.

- © The launch of the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) program was announced on 27th April 2022 by the government of India with the aim of creating Microprocessors for the country's and the world's future and to achieve industry-grade commercial silicon and design for the next generation of microprocessors by the month of December 2023. RISC-V is an open and free ISA that will enable a new era of processor innovation through collaboration. This initiative is in line with the government's ambition toward Atmanirbhar Bharat.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- © On April 27, the India Pharma Awards 2022, and India Medical Device Awards 2022 were handed over by the Minister of State for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba. The awards were handed over during the seventh edition of India Pharma and Indian Medical Device 2022 which was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

The awards were given to various industry players in the field of medical and pharmaceutical devices.

Winner of the award Indian Pharma Leader of the Year

This award was given to Cipla Ltd.

Winner of the award for the category India Pharma Innovation of the Year

This award was bestowed upon Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Winner of the award Indian Pharma (Formulation)

The winner of this award is Micro Labs Ltd.

Winner of the award Indian Pharma CSR of the year

Zydus Lifesciences Ltd received this award for its works in the field of rural healthcare. In this category, the runner-up is Glenmark Pharmaceuticals while Lupin Ltd took third place.

Winner of the award for the category of India Medical Device Leader of the Year

This award was conferred upon Poly Medicure Ltd. The runner-up in this category was Healthium Medtech Ltd and Transasia Bio-Medicals Ltd took third place.

Winner of the award India Medical Device Company of the Year

This award was conferred to Chennai-based Trivitron Healthcare Pvt Ltd. In the second place was Nice Neotech Medical Systems Pvt Ltd and Kanak Latex Industries Pvt Ltd. was placed third.

Winner of the award India Medical Device MSME of the Year

This award was conferred upon Nice Neotech Medical Systems Pvt Ltd. Premium Healthcare Disposables Pvt Ltd came second in this category and AVI Healthcare Pvt Ltd came third.

Winner of the award Indian Medical Device Start-up of the Year

This award was bestowed upon Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd, which manufactures high-quality in-vitro diagnostics products and reagents.

Winner of the award Indian Medical Device Innovation of the Year

This award was handed out to Vapi-based Meril Lifesciences Pvt Ltd.

- © The government of Meghalaya's Planning Department's initiative of the "e-Proposal System", has won the UN Award – World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum Prizes 2022. The "e-Proposal System" is a part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), which eliminates 75 per cent physical work of files in all government departments in the state. The Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture Project (MeghEA) was launched with the aim of improving governance and service delivery for the people of the state using the power of various digital technologies.

Enterprise Architecture (EA) is the process by which various organisations standardise and



organise their Information Technology related infrastructure to achieve various business objectives.

- © On April 20, the National Metallurgist Award 2021 will be hosted by the Union Ministry for Steel. Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, the Union Minister of Steel will be chairing this program. The National Metallurgist Award has been instituted by the Ministry of Steel after extensive deliberation with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The submissions of applications for the award were initiated from August to September 2021. The applications were then screened by the Screening and Selection Committees and the awardees were finalized.

- © M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Vice President on 13th April 2022 has conferred the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 to Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat, and Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh in New Delhi. It is an annual award that is instituted by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation. The Vice President also urged the people of the country and the various organizations to join the eradicating leprosy campaign.

- © The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, has bestowed the Sangeet Natak Awards and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for the year 2018 to 43 eminent artists (4 Fellows and 40 awardees). The Fellowships and National Awards of the Lalit Kala Akademi for the year 2021 were also presented by him to 23 people (3 Fellows and 20 National Awards). The highest honour that is bestowed by the Sangeet Natak Akademi is the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship. The Akademi Fellowship is restricted to 40 awardees at any given time. The awardees receive Rs.3,00,000 along with an Angavastram and a Tamrapatra.

• Recipients of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship

- ◊ Sonal Mansingh
- ◊ Jatin Goswami
- ◊ Zakir Hussain
- ◊ Thiruvaidaimarudur Kuppiah Kalyanasundaram

Sangeet Natak Akademi Award is conferred to the artists from the field of Dance, Music,

Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Theatre, Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts, Puppetry etc. The recipients receive Rs 1,00,000 along with an Angavastram and a Tamrapatra.

• Recipients in Music

- ◊ Carnatic Instrumental – Kumaresh Rajagopalan and Ganesh Rajagopalan (Violin (Joint Award))
- ◊ Carnatic Vocal – Alamelu Mani
- ◊ Hindustani Vocal – Madhup Mudgal
- ◊ Other major traditions of Music – Heisnam Ashangbi Devi (Nata Sankirtana, Manipur)
- ◊ Hindustani Vocal – Mani Prasad
- ◊ Carnatic Instrumental – S. Babu and S. Karim (Nagaswaram (Joint Award))
- ◊ Carnatic Vocal – Malladi Suribabu
- ◊ Hindustani Instrumental – Tejendra Narayan Majumdar (Santoor)
- ◊ Hindustani Instrumental – Tarun Bhattacharya (Sarod)
- ◊ Other Major Traditions of Music – Suresh E. Wadkar (Sugam Sangeet)
- ◊ Other Major Traditions of Music – Shanti Hiranand (Sugam Sangeet)

• Recipients in Dance

- ◊ Manipuri- Akham Lakshmi Devi
- ◊ Mohiniattam – Gopika Varma
- ◊ Contemporary dance – Deepak Mazumdar
- ◊ Kuchipudi – Pasumarthy Ramalinga Sastry
- ◊ Kathak (Joint award) – Maulik Shah and Ishira Parikh
- ◊ Odissi – Surupa Sen
- ◊ Bharatanatyam – Radha Sridhar
- ◊ Chhau – Tapan Kumar Pattanayak
- ◊ Sattriya – Tankeshwar Hazarika Borbayan

• Recipients in Theatre

- ◊ Other Major Traditions of Theatre – Bhagawat A.S. Nanjappa (Yakshagana)
- ◊ Other Major Traditions of Theatre – A.M. Parameswaran Chakyar (Kutiyattam)
- ◊ Playwriting – Rajeev Naik
- ◊ Playwriting – Lalitluangliana Kiangte
- ◊ Acting – Suhas Joshi
- ◊ Direction – Sanjay Upadhyay
- ◊ Acting – Teekam Joshi



- ◊ Mime – Swapan Nandy
- ◊ Recipients in Traditional/ Tribal Dance/ Music/ Folk/ Puppetry and Theatre
- ◊ Folk Dance – Arjun Singh Dhurwey (Madhya Pradesh)
- ◊ Puppetry – Anupama Hoskere
- ◊ Mask Making – Hem Chandra Goswami (Assam)
- ◊ Folk Music – Gazi Khan Barna (Khartal, Rajasthan)
- ◊ Folk Music – Malini Awasthi (Uttar Pradesh)
- ◊ Harikatha – Kota Satchidananda Sastry (Andhra Pradesh)
- ◊ Folk Music – Narendra Singh Negi (Uttarakhand)
- ◊ Folk Theatre – Mohd. Sidiq Bhagat (Bhand Pather, J&K)
- ◊ Folk Music – Som Dutt Battu (Himachal Pradesh)
- ◊ Folk Music – Niranjan Rajyaguru (Gujarat)
- **Recipients in Scholarship in Performing Arts/ Overall Contribution**
 - ◊ Overall Contribution – Puru Dadheech
 - ◊ Scholarship – Diwan Singh Bajeli

Lalit Kala Akademi Awards are bestowed upon individuals with the aim of recognizing their outstanding work in the field of art. The Akademi nominates a panel that selects the recipients of this award.

- ◎ At the 64th Annual Grammy Awards, two Indian musicians were among the winners. Falu, an Indian-American singer-songwriter won her maiden Grammy in the category of Best Children's Music Album. Composer Ricky Kej also won his second Grammy as he and Stewart Copeland won the award in the category of Best New Age Album. Falguni Shah or Falu won the award for her album A Colorful World in the category of Best Children's Music Album. Falu is a New York-based musician and has collaborated with AR Rahman for the movie Slumdog Millionaire. In Mumbai, under the legendary vocal master and sarangi Ustad Sultan Khan, she had received her early music training. She also performed in the opening number of the GRAMMY Premiere Ceremony and later won her award. In 2015, Ricky Kej had won his first Grammy Award and this win was his second. He won the award with Stewart Copeland for the album Divine Tides. He won the award in the Best New Age Album category.

