



CURRENT AFFAIRS

13 APRIL, 2022

NATIONAL

1. National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)

Why in news - Assets worth Rs 96,000 crore monetized in 2021-22 surpassing the target of Rs 88,000 crore.

Key Points –

- The coal and mining sectors, roads, and power assets were key to the monetization target being surpassed last fiscal year.
- The NMP estimates an aggregate monetization potential of Rs 6 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, over four years, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.
- The pipeline has been developed by NITI Aayog.
- The top 5 sectors capture about 83% of the aggregate pipeline value. These top 5 sectors include- Roads (27%) followed by Railways (25%), Power (15%), oil & gas pipelines (8%), and Telecom (6%).
- The NMP will run co-terminus with the Rs 100 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

2. State Energy and Climate Index

Why in news - The NITI Aayog launched the State Energy and Climate Index (SECI). It is the first index that aims to track the efforts made by states and UTs in the climate and energy sector.

Key Points –

- It ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely - DISCOM's Performance, Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy, Clean Energy Initiatives, Energy Efficiency, Environmental Sustainability and New Initiatives.
- These parameters are further divided into 27 indicators.
- The states and UTs have been ranked as larger

states, smaller states and UTs based on size and geographical differences.

- States and UTs are categorized into three groups: Front Runners, Achievers and Aspirants.
- Top Three States among Larger States Category – Gujarat(1st), Kerala(1st), Punjab(3rd).
- Top Three States among Smaller States Category – Goa(1st), Tripura(2nd), Manipur(3rd).
- Top Three UTs - Chandigarh(1st), Delhi(2nd), Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli(3rd).
- Bottom three States in Larger States Category – Chhattisgarh(20th), Madhya Pradesh(19th) and Jharkhand(18th).
- Bottom three States among Smaller States Category - Arunachal Pradesh(8th), Nagaland(7th), Meghalaya(6th).
- Top Three UTs – Lakshadweep(7th), J&K(6th), A&N(5th).
- Bihar ranks 15th among the larger states category.

3. 'Made in India' Dornier 228 Passenger Aircraft

Why in news - The first-ever 'Made in India' Dornier 228 passenger aircraft was flagged off by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in Phasighat on April 12, 2022.

Key Points –

- Light transport aircraft will facilitate regional connectivity in North-East India.
- The first flight of the passenger aircraft took off from Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam.
- The aircraft is operated by Alliance Air.
- It has been manufactured by Hindustan

Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- It is a 17-seater aircraft capable of both day and night operations.
- Under the second phase, the aircraft will connect Mechuka, Vijaynagar and other places.

INTERNATIONAL

1. US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

Why in news - Fourth US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held in Washington DC.

Key Points –

- India's External Affairs and Defence Ministers, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh met with their American counterparts, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.
- The first 2+2 dialogue between the two countries was held during the Trump Administration in September 2018.
- India and the US have signed “foundational pacts” for deep military cooperation like the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016, the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018 and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020.
- In 2022, India and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration between ISRO's 'NETRA' and the American Combined Space Operation Center (CSpOC) to protect satellites of both the nations from natural and man-made threats.
- India joined the Bahrain-based multilateral partnership Combined Maritime Force (CMF) as an associate partner.
- India has 2+2 dialogues with four key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan and Russia.

2. Sri Lanka defaults on external debts.

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

Key Points –

- Sri Lanka's external debt servicing obligations were thought to be over USD 6 billion.
- Over 16,000 MT of rice has been supplied by India.
- India has supplied over 270,000 MT of fuel to Sri Lanka.
- India has announced another USD 1 billion (earlier - USD 1.5 billion) as a credit to help shore up the sinking economy of the island nation.

3. Taiwan issues wartime survival handbook.

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

Key Points –

- It is the first time Taiwan's military has published such a handbook.
- The guide is for the public to better prepare themselves before a war or disaster happens.

ECONOMY

1. Global Trade Growth Outlook.

- **Why in news** - WTO slashes global trade growth outlook amid war and Chinese lockdowns.

Key Points –

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Tuesday cut its forecast for global trade growth for the year 2022 to 3%, from 4.7%.
- The WTO forecast global trade growth in 2023 would inch up to 3.4%.
- WTO Director-General - Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.
- WTO Hq - Geneva, Switzerland.
- WTO releases World Trade Outlook Indicator report.

TECHNOLOGY

1. IIT-Madras Launches Prosthetic Knee KADAM.



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Why in news – To improve the quality of life of several above-knee amputees, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have launched India's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee, called Kadam.

Key Points –

- This product is a polycentric knee for above-knee prosthesis.
- Kadam makes it possible for above-knee amputees to walk with a comfortable gait.
- It was created by a team at IIT Madras' TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2), which also created and commercialized the country's first standing wheelchair, 'Arise'
- It has been developed in association with the Society for Biomedical Technology and Mobility India.

FESTIVALS

1. **Madhavpur Ghed Fair.**

Why in news – The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the five-day long Madhavpur Ghed Fair, at Madhavpur Ghed, Porbandar in Gujarat.

Key Points –

- It celebrates the sacred union of Lord Krishna and Rukmini.
- The folk story of the marriage of Shri Krishna and Rukmini shows how ancient is the cultural unity of India and how deep were the roots of our social harmony.

SECURITY

1. **Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'Helina'.**

Why in news – Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army, and Indian Air Force (IAF) jointly conducted the successful flight test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' at high-altitude ranges.

Key Points –

- The flight trials were conducted from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv and

the missile was fired successfully in the Pokhran desert ranges, Rajasthan.

- The missile has a maximum range of 7 kilometers.
- It has been developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.

SPORTS

1. **Praggnanandhaa Triumphs**

Why in news - GM R. Praggnanandhaa won the Reykjavik Open chess tournament with 7.5 points from nine rounds.

Key Points –

- The 16 year old beat compatriot GM D. Gukesh in the final round to emerge a winner.
- He also scored four other wins, including one over USA's Abhimanyu Mishra, who last year became the then youngest GM.

2. **Ravichandran Ashwin Becomes the First Cricketer to Get 'Retired Out' in IPL History**

Why in news - Ravichandran Ashwin became the first cricketer in Indian Premier League (IPL) history to be retired out during the match between Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants.

Key Points –

- According to the International Cricket Council (ICC) rules, a batsman can be 'retired out' during a dead ball situation after informing the on-field umpires.
- Overall, Ashwin is the fourth batsman to be dismissed in this manner in T20s with Pakistan's Shahid Afridi, Bhutan's Sonam Tobgay and Bangladesh's Sunzamul Islam being the other three cricketers.

3. **Thailand Open Boxing Tournament – 2022**

Why in news - The Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament was held in Phuket, Thailand from 1 to 10 April.

Key Points –

- A 15-member Indian boxing contingent from

India participated in this tournament.

- India won a total of 10 medals including three gold, four silver and three bronze in this competition.
- Names of Indian Medal Winners:
 - A. Gold - Govind Sawhney (48kg), Anant Pralhad Chopde (54kg), Sumit (75 kg).
 - B. Silver - Amit Panghal (52kg), Amit Panghal (52kg) Varinder Singh (60kg), Ashish Kumar (81kg).
 - C. Bronze - Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg), Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg).

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Turban Day.

Why in news - International Turban Day is celebrated every year on April 13 since 2004.

Key Points –

- The main purpose of this day is to create awareness of the strict requirement on Sikhs to put the turban as a mandatory part of their religion.
- The 2022 Turban Day also marks the 553rd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev and the Baisakhi festival.

2. International Day of Human Space Flight

Why in news - The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated annually on April 12 to mark the anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961.

Key Points –

- On 12 April 2011, a resolution was passed by the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate the International Day of Human Spaceflight every year.
- America has been celebrating this day as the World Space Party since 2001.
- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) promotes international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space.
- Yuri Gagarin became the first person to

successfully orbit the Earth on April 12 1961 in Vostok 1 capsule.

- The world's first man-made earth satellite 'Sputnik I' was launched into outer space in the year 1957.

AWARDS AND HONORS

1. 56th Jnanpith Award

Why in news - Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan was conferred with 56th Jnanpith Award.

Key Points –

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Chairperson of Jnanpith Selection Board Pratibha Ray handed over the trophy, cheque and other mementos to the 88-year-old celebrated poet, known for his pro-people writings.
- Jnanpith Award ceremony held for the first time in Assam.
- Poet Phookan is also a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi and Padma Shri awards.
- Phookan is the third Assamese to receive the Jnanpith Award after novelist Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya (1979) and Mamoni Raisom Goswami (2000).
- The notable works of Phukan are 'Kurjya Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita' and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'.

OBITUARY

1. Mimi Reinhard.

Why in news - Mimi Reinhard, a secretary in Oskar Schindler's office who typed up the list of Jews he saved from extermination by Nazi Germany, has died in Israel at the age of 107. She was one of 1,200 Jews saved by German businessman Schindler.

BIHAR

1. Bihar to Auction all Unused Bridges as Scrap.

Why in news - Days after bridge theft, Bihar decides to auction all unused bridges as scrap.

Key Points –



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- State government has decided to identify and auction all unused iron bridges in the state as scrap, days after thieves dismantled and took away a 60-foot-long abandoned iron bridge in Rohtas district.
- Constructed in 1972, the Nasriganj bridge in Rohtas had been left unused since 2002 after a new parallel bridge was constructed.

2. Rajgir Ropeway Operations Reviewed.

Why in news – The ropeway accident in the neighbouring state of Jharkhand (Tirkut hills in Deoghar) has put on alert operators of cable cars in Bihar's Rajgir.

Key Points –

- Bihar has three ropeways.
- The first ropeway in Bihar was started in 1969 in the heritage city of Rajgir and is the oldest ropeway in the country.
- 1969 ropeway was gifted by Fuji Nichidatsu, popularly known as the Fuji Guruji, a Japanese monk and founder of the Nippontzan-Myohoji order of Buddhism. It's a single-seater ropeway.
- In 2021, the state tourism department launched two new cabin ropeways, at Rajgir and Banka.
- The ropeway at Ratnagiri at Rajgir has eight-seater cable cars while the one at Mandar hills in Banka has four-seater cable cars.
- As per guidelines, the ropeway team must have technical hands with not less than 10 years of experience in running a ropeway.
- Bihar's Rajgir, which has seen at least three mishaps in the past –
 - A. 2009: A boy fell from the single-seater ropeway and was later rescued.
 - B. 2017: The single-seater cable car stopped midway. The ropeway was carrying a group of 30 tourists from Sri Lanka.
 - C. 2019: A child fell from the single-seater ropeway, but was rescued by the team.

3. India, Nepal Discuss Gandak, Kosi Projects in Patna

Why in news – The 10th meeting of the joint committee on the Kosi and Gandak projects (JCKGP) of India and Nepal, held in Patna.

Key Points –

- For management, protection and maintenance of projects on the two rivers, which wreak havoc with floods every year.
- An Indo-Nepal agreement on the Kosi project was signed in 1954 and amended in 1966, for the building, operation and maintenance of the Kosi barrage and associated structures.
- A similar agreement on the Gandak project in 1959 and amended in 1964.
- Sanjay Agarwal, secretary (WRD), headed the Indian delegation while the Nepalese delegation was headed by director-general Sushil Chandra Acharya.
- The first meeting of the committee was held in 2001 in Kathmandu.

Flood prone areas in Bihar –

- 73.63% of the geographical area of North Bihar is considered to be prone to floods. Out of 38 districts, 28 districts get flooded (of which 15 districts are worst affected) causing huge loss of property, lives, farmlands and infrastructure.
- According to the Bihar Government's Flood Management Information Systems Cell, floods in Bihar can be divided into 4 categories
 - Class I : Flash floods
 - Class II : River floods
 - Class III : Drainage congestion in a river confluence
 - Class IV : Permanent waterlogged areas

Flood prone districts in Bihar -



- North Bihar districts are vulnerable to at least



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five major flood-causing rivers during monsoon – Mahananda River, Koshi River, Bagmati River, Burhi Gandak River and Gandak – which originate in Nepal. Some south Bihar districts have also become vulnerable to floods from Son, Punpun and Phalgu rivers.

4. Data on Labourers of Bihar on e-Shram Portal

Why in news – 94 percent of workers' income is less than 10 thousand rupees as disclosed by the registration of laborers on the e-shram portal.

Key Points –

- There are just less than one percent laborers whose income is more than 18 thousand monthly according to the data of three and a half crore laborers registered on the e-shram portal.
- The central government has given a target of registration of 3.5 crore laborers in Bihar. So far more than two crores 80 lakh 88 thousand workers have registered on the portal. Of these, more than two crore laborers have registered through Sahaj Vasudha Kendra while the rest have registered themselves.
- The number of workers earning less than 15 thousand is more than one crore 40 lakh, which is 4.99 percent of the total registration.
- Most of the registered workers belong to the agriculture sector. More than one crore and 39 lakh workers are associated with the agriculture sector.
- The number of domestic workers is more than 41 lakh 43 thousand.
- The number of workers associated with the construction sector is more than 27 lakh 84 thousand and from the textile sector more than

16 lakh 43 thousand.

- At the same time, there are more than nine lakh 94 thousand workers from various categories.

5. Rs 9184 crores approved for Bihar for better education.

Why in news – Rs 9184 crore will be available in 2022-23 for the operation of centrally assisted educational schemes in the state. The budget proposal has been approved in the meeting of the Project Approval Board.

Key Points –

- The Bihar education department had demanded 13983 crores.
- 3424 crores have been released for teachers' salaries, 1938 crores for quality education, 1575 crores for RTE, books and clothes etc.
- A budget of 500 crores has also been given from the center to open computer labs at the block level. The remaining amount has been given for the repair of schools etc.
- This time the budget is about three thousand crores more than the last financial year.

6. Hooters to Alert People about Thunderbolt

Why in news – Bihar State Disaster Management Authority will install hooters to alert people about thunderbolts.

Key Points –

- Hooter or Siren will be installed in the water tower (Jal minar) built under the Nal Jal scheme.
- Hooters will be installed in 15 districts – Jamui, Banka, Nawada, Gaya, Aurangabad, Baharaia, Purnea, Bhagalpur, Katihar, Patna, Nalanda, Rohtas, Saran, East Champaran and Bhojpur.



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PERFECTION IAS

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- The company that has partnered with "Common Service Centers" – **TATA CIA.**
- The person who has appointed to the United Nations High-Level Expert Group recently - **Dr. Arunabh Ghosh.**
- The organization who has recently unveiled the “Manthan” to promote innovation – **SEBI.**
- State who has topped the State Energy and Climate Index of NITI Aayog recently – **Gujarat.**
- the state government that has increased the old age pension from 1200 to 1400 rupees – **Uttarakhand.**
- The country that has successfully test-fired Shaheen 3 missile recently – **Pakistan.**
- Who has been announced to be honored with the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award - **Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- Australia's Rachel Haynes and which player have been named ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for March 2022 by ICC - **Babar Azam.**
- The 20th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held in which state's Pucca Tiger Reserve - **Arunachal Pradesh.**

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