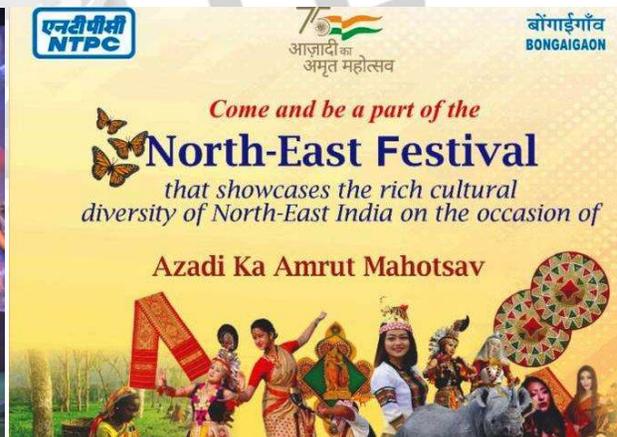


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MAY 1, 2022

STATES

- The Ministry of DoNER - is organizing North East Festival across all the eight North Eastern States from April 28 to May 4 as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav



- ✓ The seven day festival, which is being celebrated at the Regional and State level, aims to showcase the achievements of North Eastern Region with the Spirit of "Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahi".
- ✓ The programmes under the festival will be conducted across all eight states
- ✓ It will cover all the areas which are critical to the development of the North East including infrastructure, investment potential, energy needs and role of women in development of North East.
- ✓ Every day will be celebrated under a different theme across the eight States and every key event will be attended by the concerned Union Ministers
- ✓ DoNER Minister G Kishna Reddy informed that a special Agriculture Task Force has been formed to ensure mission mode work on harnessing the agriculture and horticulture potential of the Northeastern region
- ✓ The festival will also celebrate sportspersons of the North Eastern Region through sports events which will conclude on 3rd May, 2022 at Imphal.

- ✓ Further, the States will also be celebrating the entire week with a wide range of activities and events with the participation of citizens
- ✓ The President of India will be chief guest at the Valedictory function at Guwahati on 4th May, 2022.
- **On April 28, Maharashtra cabinet – approved the 'Maharashtra Gene Bank', a first-of-its-kind project in the country.**
 - ✓ The project seeks to conserve native and endangered animals, crops, marine and biological species
 - ✓ It will work on seven themes -- marine, crop, veterinary, freshwater, grassland biodiversity, protection and management of forest right areas, and regeneration of forests.
 - ✓ In the next five years, an amount of Rs.172.39 crore will be spent on these seven focus areas under the project
 - ✓ The project was mentioned by deputy chief minister and finance minister Ajit Pawar in his budget speech for 2022-23
 - ✓ Apart from protecting biodiversity, the project will focus on mitigating the impact on the food chain due to climate change.
 - ✓ The project will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) and will be overseen by committees under the chief secretary and the principal secretary (forests).
 - ✓ The gene bank project had been implemented on an experimental basis across 27 districts from 2012 to 2019 by the state government's Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission
- **Palli village of Samba district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir - is all set to become the first carbon-free solar panchayat in the entire country**
 - ✓ The village is fully powered by solar energy and with all its records digitized, it is completely getting benefits of all the Central schemes.
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited Palli village on National Panchayat Day on April 24.
 - ✓ During his visit, PM Modi inaugurated the 500 KW solar plant, which was completed in a record time of three weeks.
 - ✓ Palli was a major step towards the Glasgow Climate Change Conference goal of making India carbon-neutral.
 - ✓ A total of 1,500 solar panels put up in an area of 6,408 square metres will provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat under the central government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme
 - ✓ The electricity generated from the solar project would fulfil the daily need of 2,000 units of the residents of Palli village.

- **A key initiative titled "e-Proposal System" of the Planning department of Meghalaya government - wins the coveted UN Award - World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum Prizes 2022**
 - ✓ The "e-Proposal System", part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), seeks to eliminate 75% physical work of files in government departments
 - ✓ This initiative of the state government of Meghalaya is spread across six different pillars that are Human Resources, Governance, Primary Sector, Entrepreneurship, Environment, and Infrastructure.
 - ✓ Meghalaya was selected among the top 360 projects across the world.
 - ✓ Out of these, the UN selects the top five in 18 categories and awards them as Champion Projects.
 - ✓ Meghalaya has been selected by the UN as a Champion Project in the category of - "The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies for development," along with projects from Australia, China, and Argentina and Tanzania.

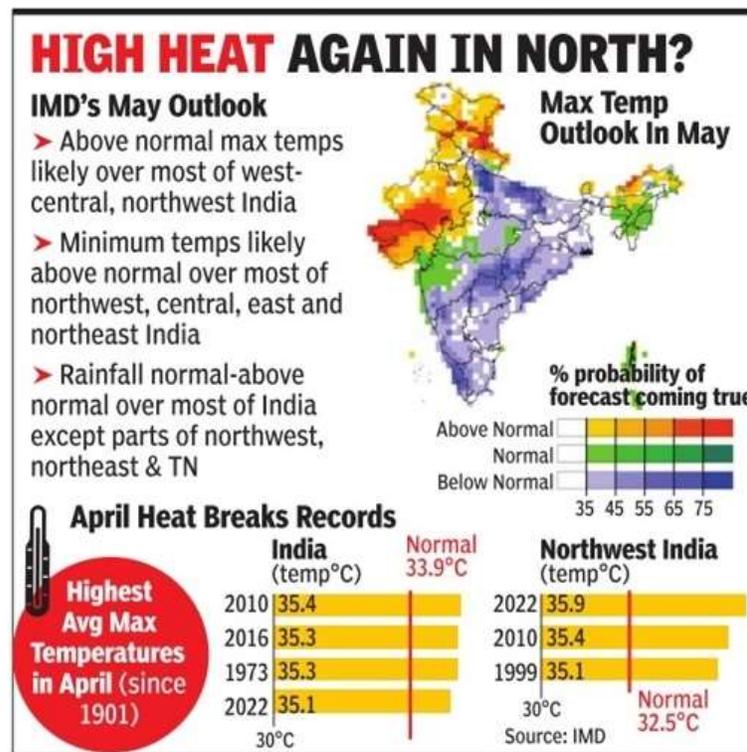
- **Agra - has become the first city in the country to have vacuum-based sewers used in public places.**
 - ✓ The corporation has connected 240 such houses in a low-lying area near the Taj Mahal with vacuum-based sewer where conventional sewer systems cannot be used.
 - ✓ All the chambers of this system have been equipped with geographic information system (GIS) based sensors.
 - ✓ This system will be maintained by a company from the Netherlands for a period of up to five years.
 - ✓ The vacuum-based sewer network has been constructed at Rs 5 crore.
 - ✓ The sewer connection work in the city is estimated at Rs 100 crore and by using a 53 km long sewer line, 60,000 houses have been connected.
 - ✓ If the trial in Agra becomes successful, then the vacuum sewer will be used in Kochi Municipal Corporation as well.

NATIONAL

- **The Khadi sales - rose 43% to a record high of Rs. 5,052 crore during the last financial year**



- ✓ This is bigger than the sales effected by several textiles companies in the country.
 - ✓ The sale of cotton fabric contributes nearly one third of the total revenue, with another 22% is through cotton garments.
 - ✓ According to Khadi & Village Industries Commission, during 2021-22, its cumulative sales topped Rs. 1 lakh crore, including village industry produce such as food items.
 - ✓ During the last financial year, the turnover is estimated to have increased over 20% to Rs. 1.15 lakh crore, while the overall production rose 16.7% to over Rs. 84,000 crore.
- **Northwest and central India - experienced the hottest month of April ever recorded in terms of day temperatures in weather data going back to 1901.**



- ✓ Across India, this was the fourth hottest April on record, as per the India Meteorological Department
 - ✓ April was the second successive month of extreme temperatures this year after the country had reported the highest average day temperatures ever recorded in March.
- **The Union Cabinet - has approved financial support of Rs 820 crore for India Post Payments Bank to facilitate expansion of its services to all post offices in the country.**
- ✓ The support will help state-run payments bank to have deeper penetration into the country, especially in the rural area and work towards financial inclusion

- ✓ IPPB has more than 5.25 crore accounts at present and operates through 1.36 lakh branches
 - ✓ IPPB has enabled 1.36 lakh post offices to provide banking services.
 - ✓ Out of the 5 crore accounts, 77% of accounts are opened in rural areas, 48% are women customers with around Rs 1,000 crore of deposit
 - ✓ IPPB was launched in September 2018, with 650 branches or controlling offices
- **The Ministry of MSME – has launched month-long initiative “Enterprise India” to promote entrepreneurship culture and create awareness about the schemes and initiatives of the Ministry**



- ✓ Enterprise India is a series of commemorative entrepreneurship development events and activities being organised from April 27 up to May 27, 2022
 - ✓ Union Minister for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) Narayan Tatya Rane inaugurated the mega event under the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
 - ✓ The launch of Enterprise India and meeting with industry associations come ahead of the upcoming MSME policy
 - ✓ The MSME Ministry had released the draft policy in February this year focusing on improving competitiveness among MSMEs, enhancing their technology upgradation, cluster and infrastructure development, procurement of products from MSMEs and providing dedicated credit support.
- **On April 28, Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh - launched 'Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak' in New Delhi as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**
- ✓ The 90-day campaign aims to provide 75 districts with various beneficiary schemes of nine union ministries



- ✓ The identified districts are the birthplace of 99 freedom fighters, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during its struggle for independence
- ✓ Also, the 75 districts are marginally lagging behind in development as per the monthly per capita indicators and Socio-Economic Caste Census data.
- ✓ The campaign aims at taking up 17 schemes in the selected districts with direct assistance to beneficiaries on saturation mode.
- ✓ Azadi Se Antyodaya Tak campaign is a concerted effort of several Union Ministries which will be taken up by the Union Rural Development Ministry
- ✓ They include the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Labour and Empowerment Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The US, European Union and a host of other countries – have signed the ‘Declaration for the Future of the Internet’**
- ✓ Launched by the US and 60 global partners, the declaration represents a political commitment by the governments of these countries to reinforce democracy ‘online’ and make the internet “open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure”.
- ✓ The signatories promised not to shut down access to the internet, or use it to spy illegally on citizens, access an individual’s personal data or run misinformation campaigns to undermine elections
- ✓ They also promised to ensure safety of its users, especially young people and women, while promoting access to the internet.
- ✓ The pledge emphasises the need to decentralise and globally interconnect the Internet.
- ✓ Although the declaration is not legally binding, the signatories said that the declaration should act as a reference for policymakers, citizens, businesses and civil society organisations.

- ✓ Those endorsing the Declaration include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Uruguay.
 - ✓ India, China, Brazil and Russia are among the large nations that are not part of this declaration.
 - ✓ The US and the 60 global partners of the declaration will work together to implement the principles in the declaration and promote its vision globally
 - ✓ A total of 182 internet crackdowns were reported globally in 2021.
 - ✓ Out of 106 shutdowns in India, 85 were reported in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ✓ India was one of among 18 countries that blocked mobile internet during protests.
 - ✓ The number of countries that shut down the internet in 2021 has increased to 34 from 29 in 2020.
- **Russia – has announced its decision to withdraw from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) ahead of the scheduled vote to suspend Moscow for its military offensive in Ukraine**
- ✓ Russia announced its intention on the first day of an extraordinary General Assembly of the tourism agency to address the suspension of Russia's membership.
 - ✓ The United Nations World Trade Organization called Russian aggression against Ukraine "inconsistent with the United Nations Charter" and is against the fundamental aim of the UNWTO
 - ✓ The UN World Tourism Organization which includes 160 members has been established in 1946 and encourages "responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism."
 - ✓ According to the rules of the vote, there were 160 members in total and a two-thirds majority was needed to put the suspension process into effect
 - ✓ Earlier on April 7, the UN General Assembly voted to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.
 - ✓ A total of 93 countries had voted in favour and 24 have voted against the resolution while 58 nations had abstained from voting

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The Union Cabinet - approved a proposal to open a new Indian mission in Lithuania on April 27, 2022**
- ✓ This will be the first full-fledged embassy in the Baltic region
 - ✓ The opening of the mission in Lithuania would help India expand its political, strategic and economic engagements with that country.
 - ✓ Lithuania was the first Baltic country to open an embassy in India in 2008

- ✓ The Lithuanian capital of Vilnius has so far hosted only the country's honorary consulate, which was opened in 2015
 - ✓ A former Soviet republic and a NATO member, Lithuania, have advocated for more robust support for Ukraine, militarily and economically.
 - ✓ Earlier this month, Lithuania became the first European country to ban all imports of Russian gas
 - ✓ After Taiwan opened a non-diplomatic office in the capital city, China had downgraded its relations with Lithuania in November 2021.
- **India and Maldives - plan to set up a transmission interconnection for transfer of renewable power between the two countries**
 - ✓ The proposal was discussed during the meeting between Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh and Maldives' Environment, Climate Change and Technology Minister Aminath Shauna in Delhi recently
 - ✓ During the meeting, both leaders proposed two Memoranda of Understanding -- on energy cooperation and on transmission interconnection under 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' (OSOWOG) initiative
 - ✓ The Maldives government is aiming to achieve net zero emission target by 2030

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On April 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi- inaugurated the first Semicon India 2022 Conference, which is being held in Bengaluru, through video conference**



PM MODI INAUGURATES SEMICON INDIA CONFERENCE 2022

- ✓ The aim of the conference is to make India a worldwide semiconductor hub, and facilitate the India Semiconductor Mission into action
- ✓ The three-day conference, is being organised to take forward the vision of Prime Minister to make India a leader in the electronics manufacturing , semiconductor design, manufacturing and innovation
- ✓ The Prime Minister spoke on the "Design and Manufacture in India, for the World: Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem" theme during the inaugural session.

- ✓ The ministry of electronics and information technology is organising the event with the theme- Design and Manufacturing in India for the world: Making India a Semiconductor Nation.
- ✓ The conclave will showcase innovation by startups, key projects undertaken by the academic institutions, ongoing microprocessor programs undertaken by the government and the intellectual might of research and development in the sector, both by enterprise and the government.
- ✓ The conference is being conducted under the guidance of Ashwini Vaishnaw, minister for electronics and information technology, railways and communication and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, minister of state for electronics and information technology and skill development and entrepreneurship.
- ✓ In March 2022, Union Cabinet approved the Semicon India program for the development of the semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country at an outlay of Rs. 76,000 crore

PERSONALITIES

- **Former IAS officer Shah Faesal, who had tendered resignation from government service to join politics - has been allowed to rejoin his job by the Government**



- ✓ Faesal, who was the first UPSC topper from Jammu and Kashmir in 2009, resigned from service in January 2019, citing “rising intolerance” in the country.
- ✓ He floated his own political party -- Jammu and Kashmir People’s Movement -- in March that year and had plans to contest assembly elections which were to be held.
- ✓ The doctor-turned-bureaucrat formed his party to "revive democratic politics" in Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ He was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in the wake of abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in August that year.
- ✓ However, after his release, Faesal gave up on politics and started dropping hints of his willingness to rejoin government service.

- ✓ The government has accepted IAS officer Shah Faesal's application for withdrawing his resignation and reinstated him in service and his next posting would be announced soon
 - ✓ The Home Ministry is the cadre controlling authority for the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre
 - ✓ Faesal hails from the Sogam village in the district of Kupwara in North Kashmir.
- **Aam Aadmi Party leader Raghav Chadha, Edelweiss Mutual Fund CEO Radhika Gupta and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov - were named by the World Economic Forum in its 2022 list of Young Global Leaders.**
- ✓ Chadha, who was recently elected to Rajya Sabha after AAP's massive victory in Punjab, was earlier his party's MLA in the national capital.



- ✓ The other Indians on the list include athlete Manasi Joshi, Innov8 Coworking founder Ritesh Malik, BharatPe CEO Suhail Sameer, Sugar Cosmetics CEO Vineeta Singh and Global Himalayan Expedition CEO Jaideep Bansal.
- ✓ The 2022 list also includes Imperial Logistics Limited's Esha Mansingh, Abu Dhabi Growth Fund's Mayank Singhal, Indorama Ventures Public Company's Yashovardhan Lohia and The Patrick J McGovern Foundation's Vilas Dhar.
- ✓ The list has been released now ahead of WEF annual meeting of the rich and powerful from across the globe in Swiss ski resort town Davos from May 22-26
- ✓ The WEF described the members of the list as "the world's most promising 109 Young Global Leaders under the age of 40, involved in activities from green energy and health equity to refugee rights and education reform"
- ✓ The earlier members of the list have gone on to become Nobel Prize recipients, heads of state, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and Grammy Award winners
- ✓ The 2022 Class of Young Global Leaders (YGLs) include researchers, innovative entrepreneurs, activists and promising political leaders between the ages of 30 and 40.

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Coast Guard Ship (Auxiliary Barge) named 'Urja Pravaha' - has been inducted recently into the Indian Coast Guard at Gujarat's Bharuch**



- ✓ Urja Pravaha based at Kochi will be under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala and Mahe), in addition to auxiliary barge Urja Shrota, which was based here since 2017
- ✓ The ship will enhance the desired logistics support for ships deployed at distant areas in the Maritime Operational area including EEZ and Lakshadweep/ Minicoy islands.
- ✓ The Auxiliary Barge Urja Pravaha is 36 meters long and is designed to carry Cargo Ship Fuel, Aviation Fuel and Fresh Water
- ✓ Urja Pravaha is an auxiliary barge designed to support combatant ships and other naval operations.

APPOINTMENTS

- **General Manoj Pande - took over as the 29th chief of the 12-lakh strong Indian Army from General M M Naravane on April 30**



- ✓ Outgoing Chief Gen Naravane had taken over on December 31, 2019 as Gen Bipin Rawat was appointed the country's first Chief of Defence Staff

- ✓ Gen Pande is the first Army Chief who comes from the Corps of Engineers, as all previous Chiefs have come from Infantry, Artillery or the Armoured Corps.
- ✓ He was commissioned in December 1982 in The Bombay Sappers.
- ✓ Gen Pande is the most senior Army officer in the country, and has spent the majority of his career serving along the northern borders facing China
- ✓ Gen Pande has dealt extensively with China in his earlier appointments as the 4 'Gajraj' Corps commander in the north-east as well as the Eastern Command chief.
- ✓ He commanded an Engineer brigade in the Western Theatre, as part of Strike Corps and an Infantry brigade along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Gen Pande also commanded a Mountain Division in western Ladakh's high-altitude region, and a Corps along the Line of Actual Control in counter-insurgency operations area in the Eastern Command.
- ✓ As an Army Commander, Gen Pande has served in two different theatres.
- ✓ Gen Pande was chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command, which a tri-services command and then headed the Kolkata-headquartered Eastern Command, before taking over as Vice Chief of the Army in February
- ✓ He has also served as the Assistant Military Secretary, Colonel Q of a Mountain Division in the High Altitude Area, Brigade General Staff (Operations) at Headquarters Eastern Command.
- ✓ Gen Pande was the Chief Engineer in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- ✓ He has also been the Additional Director General in the Military Operations Directorate at Army Headquarters, Chief of Staff at Headquarters Southern Command, and Director General Discipline Ceremonial & Welfare at the Army Headquarters.
- ✓ An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Gen Pande has also undergone courses at Staff College, Camberley (UK), Army War College, Mhow and National Defence College, New Delhi.
- ✓ He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva, Ati Vishisht Seva and Vishisht Seva medals.
- ✓ Gen Pande will have a tenure of a little more than two years.
- ✓ Gen Naravane, as the senior-most four-star officer in the military, had taken over the responsibility of the Chiefs of Staffs Committee, handling some of the responsibilities of the CDS.
- ✓ As he retires, Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari will take over that role as the senior-most service chief.

SPORTS

- **P V Sindhu - wins her second Asian Championships bronze medal after losing to World No. 2 and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila on April 30**



- ✓ The Hyderabad shuttler, who won two Super 300 titles at Syed Modi International and Swiss Open, was handed a point penalty for taking too much time between points in the second set
- ✓ Sindhu did not attend the medal ceremony and decided to boycott the event, expressing displeasure with the poor umpiring standard in the semifinal
- ✓ The men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, seeded third, lost to fifth-seeded Aaron Chia and Massoh Wooi Yik of Malaysia in their quarter-final clash
- ✓ Top Indian badminton players Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen were knocked out in the earlier rounds
- ✓ Sindhu has previously won an individual bronze as one of the losing semifinalists at the 2014 edition in Gimcheon
- ✓ The only Indian shuttler to win gold at the Asian Championships is Dinesh Khanna in the second edition of the event in 1965
- ✓ The 2020 and 2021 editions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Immunization Week – April 24 to 30



- ✓ World Immunization Week is observed every year from April 24 to 30 to encourage the use of immunizations to protect people of all ages against disease
- ✓ This year, the theme for World Immunization Week is "Long Life for All".

- ✓ The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has started a campaign called "Vaccines for all", in order to reach every community, and every place with life-saving vaccines.
- ✓ The WHO, along with several partners, including Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation support World Immunization Week.
- ✓ In May 2012, the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the WHO, endorsed World Immunization Week
- ✓ The world's first "World Immunization Week" was observed in 2012, which witnessed the simultaneous participation of more than 180 countries and territories worldwide.
- ✓ The basis for vaccination began in the year 1796, when English doctor Edward Jenner developed one of the first methods for controlling smallpox
- ✓ For his contribution to Immunisation, Jenner is also known as the "father of immunology".
- ✓ The Kingdom of Bavaria was one of the first countries to introduce compulsory vaccination according to Jenner's method

