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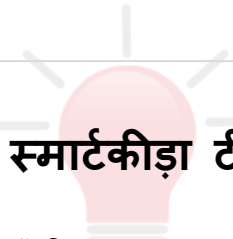
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of April 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF अप्रैल 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

501. On April 17, The right to privacy of an individual and the reputation earned during their lifetime extinguishes after death, and therefore, neither of them can be inherited by the legal heirs of the deceased, as is the case with immovable and movable properties, according to Madras High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madras High Court: Right to privacy & reputation of an individual extinguishes after death
- Present Chief Justice of Madras High Court – Justice Sanjib Banerjee

502. On April 17, The Gallantry Awards participants from all over India to recommend unique and innovative tributes to salute the bravehearts of the nation. The competition is being held from 15th April to 15th May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gallantry Awards portal – organised an “Innovative Tributes to Bravehearts” competition

503. On April 20, Rajasthan government has announced a Jan Anushasan Pakhwara (JAP), or the Public Discipline Fortnight. Only shops and offices providing essential services will open during the 15-day period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – announced a Jan Anushasan Pakhwara (JAP) (Public Discipline Fortnight)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

504. On April 19, Given the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases, Indian Railways will operate ‘Oxygen Express’ trains to transport Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and Oxygen Cylinders for patients across India, using green corridors for expeditious delivery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – to operate ‘Oxygen Express’ trains to transport Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) & Oxygen Cylinders
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma

505. On April 20, Cryptocurrency exchange “Bitex” has started providing investment declaration reports for all its retail and institutional investors, becoming the first exchange in India to comply with the recent amendments made to the Companies Act 2013 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bitex (UAE) – 1st exchange in India to provide investment declaration reports for all its investors to Indian Tax authority



506. On April 20, Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde has recently appreciated the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Goa, the only state to have one. The UCC is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy under Article 44. The Law Commission had concluded in 2018 that a UCC is neither desirable nor feasible. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde appreciated the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) – in Goa (the only state)
- The UCC is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy – under Article 44
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

507. On April 18, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has extended the License Validity of 8 Medical Devices for additional 6 months. These 8 medical items have come into effect from 1st April, 2021 under Medical Devices Rules 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CDSCO extended the License Validity of 8 Medical Devices for additional 6 months
- [The Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\) – V G Somani](#)

508. On April 20, The Union Cabinet has approved an exclusive subsidy policy for Urea produced through Coal Gasification Route by Talcher Fertilizers Ltd (TFL). TFL is a joint venture company of 4 PSUs namely Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF), GAIL (India) Ltd, Coal India Ltd and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd (FCI) reviving the sick unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd by setting up a new Greenfield Urea Plant at an estimated cost Rs 13,277 Cr. Union Cabinet also gave approval for Amendments to Finance Bill, 2021 that provides a 10-year income tax exemption to the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID). The cabinet also gave approval to Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase 2A & Phase 2B. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TFL = RCF + GAIL + CIL + FCI
- A new subsidy of Rs 13,277 Cr will be provided to TFL for setting up Greenfield Urea Plant
- Amendments to “Finance Bill, 2021” provides – 10-year income tax exemption to the NBFID
- Cabinet also gave approval to Phase 2A & Phase 2B of – Bangalore Metro Rail Project

509. On April 20, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) has decided to install plant to manufacture oxygen at its unit located in Kalol, Gandhinagar. The plant will have the capacity to produce 200 cubic meter of oxygen per hour. IFFCO’s oxygen plant in Kalol will generate medical-grade oxygen. It will be able to fill up 700 D-type and 300 B-type cylinders every day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFFCO – decided to install plant to manufacture oxygen at its unit located in Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Capacity – 200 cubic meter oxygen per hour
- Total 4 Units will be established: Kalol (Gujarat), Aonla & Phulpur (UP), Paradeep (Odisha)
- [HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | Chairman – Balvinder Singh Nakai](#)
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)



510. On April 20, Mining firm Vedanta Ltd has launched the “Vedanta Saathi” programme for the MSME sector. The programme comes with a variety of offerings for the MSMEs such as an e-commerce portal, channel financing through banks, NBFCs and fintech firms at attractive rates, and a dedicated MSME website. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vedanta Ltd – launched the “Vedanta Saathi” programme for the MSME sector
- HQs of Vedanta Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Sunil Duggal

511. On April 20, Chandigarh Smart City Limited has drafted the first-of-its-kind Cycling Policy. The draft policy views cycling as a major alternate mode of transport for short distances, and the provision for safer and better section of roads or cycle tracks is the best way to promote it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandigarh – drafted the first-of-its-kind “Cycling Policy”

512. The “Infant Toddler and Caregiver-friendly Neighbourhoods (ITCN) Training and Capacity Building Programme” was launched by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in partnership with Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF). The training is proposed to be delivered through well-structured training modules, provided online through National Urban Learning Platform (NULP), the platform developed for knowledge dissemination by MoHUA and NIUA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIUA + BvLF = launched “Infant Toddler & Caregiver-friendly Neighbourhoods Training & Capacity Building Program”
- HQs of NIUA – New Delhi | Director – Hitesh Vaidya
- HQs of BvLF – The Hague, Netherlands | Chief Executive – Michael Feigelson

513. On April 21, As part of Indian Railways' project of redeveloping stations across the country, the Indian Railways Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) has developed a first-of-its-kind ‘form-based codes’ for the commercial development of railway land, as per the guidebook issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRSDC – developed a first-of-its-kind ‘form-based codes’ for the commercial development of Railway land
- It is done as per the guidebook issued by – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- HQs of IRSDC – New Delhi | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar | CEO & MD – S K Lohia

514. On April 20, Ms Rita Teatia (Chairperson of FSSAI) has virtually inaugurated the 5th edition of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH). The CCSCH has finalised and recommended quality standards for 4 spices - Cloves, Oregano, Basil and Ginger. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ms Rita Teatia – inaugurated the 5th edition of the Codex Committee on Spices & Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)
- CCSCH – finalised & recommended quality standards for 4 spices - Cloves, Oregano, Basil & Ginger
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatia | CEO – Shri Arun Singhal
- HQs of Spice Board of India – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – D. Sathiyam



515. On April 20, The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds. A declaration of a ₹1 Cr donation was made in the party's 2019-20 contribution report. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) – the first party to declare the name of the donor of the Electoral Bonds
- Amount of declaration made in the party's 2019-20 contribution report – ₹1 Cr
- HQs of JMM – Ranchi, Jharkhand | Leader – Shibu Soren | Founder – Binod Bihari Mahato

516. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and CEEW's Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF) have launched the India Renewables Dashboard. The dashboard is a joint effort to provide detailed operational information on renewable energy (RE) projects in India. The dashboard is supported by the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Electricity Authority + CEEW-CEF = launched the India Renewables Dashboard
- HQs of CEA – New Delhi

517. On April 22, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge to accelerate adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in Government. India is well positioned to become a vibrant hub for Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) innovations, due to the large number of 4G data subscribers in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY launched “#FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge” to accelerate adoption of Free & Open Source Software (FOSS)
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)

518. On April 20, Activating 'Article 224A' of the Constitution that had been dormant for 58 years, the Supreme Court has allowed High Court Chief Justices to start appointing retired HC judges as ad hoc judges for 2 to 5 years if the HC faced pendency of a large number of cases. In the last 58 years, only 3 retired judges have been appointed as ad hoc judges to HCs for a period of one year each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SC allowed HC Chief Justices to start appointing retired HC judges as ad hoc judges for 2 to 5 years
- Only 3 retired judges have been appointed as ad hoc judges to HCs in last 58 years – under 'Article 224A' of the IC
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)

519. On April 22, As India contends with its second major wave of COVID cases and a double-mutated variant of the virus, it now faces a new threat - a triple-mutant variant. Scientists found two triple-mutant varieties in patient samples in four states: Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. Researchers in India have dubbed it the “Bengal Strain”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Bengal Strain” - a COVID triple-mutant is found in 4 states of India: Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal & Chhattisgarh



International Affairs

520. On April 17, The French National Assembly has approved the creation of an “ecocide” offence as part of a battery of measures aimed at protecting the environment and tackling climate change. Transgressors will be liable to up to 10 years in prison and a fine of 4.5 million euros (\$5.4 million). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France approved ‘ecocide’ offence to punish Environmental Damage
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

521. On April 20, India has been elected by acclamation to three bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). India was elected by acclamation for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2022. Those three bodies are given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India is elected by acclamation to 3 bodies of the UN ECOSOC for a 3-year term (beginning Jan 1, 2022)
- Those 3 bodies are:
 - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
 - Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
 - Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP)

522. On April 19, The Israeli Ministry of Energy has announced a National Plan which includes a main target of reducing 80% of Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2050. The plan also aims to shut down all coal-fired power plants by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel aims to reduce 80% Greenhouse Gas Emissions – by 2050
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

523. On April 20, British authorities are exploring the possibility of creating a new digital currency that Treasury chief Rishi Sunak touted as “Bitcoin”. Currently, only the Bahamas has such a currency, though China is trialing it in several cities. Sweden has indicated it could have its own digital currency by 2026, while the European Central Bank has indicated an Electronic Euro might be created within 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK is exploring the possibility of creating a new digital currency “Bitcoin”
- Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) – Rishi Sunak
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



524. On April 22, Australia has cancelled two Chinese Belt and Road infrastructure building initiative deals with Victoria state government on grounds of national interest. Victoria Education Department pacts signed with Syria in 1999 and Iran in 2004 were also cancelled. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – cancelled two Chinese Belt & Road infrastructure building initiative deals
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

525. On April 22, US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has asked Joe Biden to designate 4 nations - India, Russia, Syria & Vietnam as “Countries of Particular Concern (CPC)” for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USCIRF asked Joe Biden to designate 4 nations as “Countries of Particular Concern (CPC)”
- These 4 nations: India, Russia, Syria & Vietnam
- HQs of USCIRF – Washington, D.C., US | Executive Director – Erin D. Singhsinsuk

526. On April 22, Israel’s government has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google for the 4-phase project known as “Nimbus” worth 4 billion shekels (\$1.2 billion or approx Rs 7,530 Cr) to provide cloud services for the country's public sector and military. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel – chose AWS & Google for the 4-phase project known as “Nimbus” worth 4 billion shekels (\$1.2 billion)
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

Banking & Economic Affairs

527. On April 20, Google Pay is launching “Fi” - a Neobank for salaried millennials in partnership with Federal Bank. Neobanks are virtual banks that work online and do not have physical branches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google Pay + Federal Bank = launching “Fi” - a Neobank for salaried millennials
- HQs Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

528. On April 23, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has roped in Ernst & Young as its Digital Consultant to transform its banking services, with an aim to boost digital transactions share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOB – roped in Ernst & Young as its Digital Consultant
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta | Tagline – “Good people to grow with”
- HQs of EY – London, UK | CEO – Carmine Di Sibio



529. On April 23, Aceware FinTech Services has launched the Kerala's first Neobank, "Ace Money Neobank", in partnership with YES Bank and ICICI Bank. In the first phase, start-ups, traders and business entities can open current accounts with the neobank, according to the company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aceware FinTech Services + YES Bank + ICICI Bank = launched the Kerala's first Neobank, "Ace Money Neobank"
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"
- HQs of Aceware – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – Jimmin James Kurichiyil

530. On April 22, South Africa's second-largest lender FirstRand Bank has decided to withdraw its banking services from India after 12 years. FirstRand which has \$118 billion in assets, became the second global bank to exit India just within a week of Citigroup's decision. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FirstRand Bank – to withdraw its banking services from India
- HQs of FirstRand – Johannesburg, South Africa | CEO – Alan Pullinger

531. On April 23, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with HDFC Ltd to offer housing loans to homebuyers at competitive rates. Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH) will originate retail home loans according to a jointly drawn up credit policy and retain 20% of the loan in its books. The rest, 80%, will be on HDFC's books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indiabulls Housing Finance + HDFC Ltd = a strategic co-lending partnership to offer housing loans
- HQs of IHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Subhash Sheoratan Mundra | Vice-Chairman & MD – Gagan Banga

532. On April 23, The RBI has cancelled the licence of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd due to adequate capital. Over 98% of the depositors will receive the full amounts of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of "Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd" (Warud, Maharashtra)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

533. On April 23, Indian Bank has signed an agreement with The Chennai Angles for financing start-ups under its loan programme, "IND Spring Board". Under this product, the bank will support start-ups by extending credit facilities of up to ₹50 Cr for working capital requirements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + Chennai Angles – for loan programme "IND Spring Board"
- The bank will extend credit facilities of up to ₹50 Cr for working capital requirements
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chunduru



534. On April 22, Mastercard and BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL) have launched to offer an easy payment solution for cardholders with the launch of “ConQR” - a Mastercard QR on Card solution. ConQR will be first offered to small businesses who currently use BoB’s acceptance solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + BFSL = to launch “ConQR” - a Mastercard QR on Card solution – to offer an easy payment solution
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach
- HQs of BFSL – Mumbai, MH | CFO – Pooja Karnani

535. On April 22, HSBC India has collaborated with Google Pay (GPay) and VISA to enable secured tokenisation on its credit cards. This new feature will enable HSBC Credit Card customers to link their card to GPay and use it for transaction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HSBC India + GPay + VISA = collaboration to enable secured tokenisation on its credit cards
- HQs of HSBC India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Surendra Rosha
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

536. On April 22, The New Development Bank (NDB) has issued its 5-year \$1.5 billion benchmark bond. This transaction is the 3rd USD benchmark bond offering of the Bank in the international markets. The bond was priced with no new issue premium at MS +25bps. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB – issued its 5-year \$1.5 billion benchmark bond
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)

537. On April 18, In-line with the RBI’s guidelines, Airtel Payments Bank has become the first payments bank in India to enable ₹2 lakh day-end balance account limit from ₹1 earlier. The Bank deposits are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel Payments Bank – became the 1st payments bank in India to enable ₹2 lakh day-end balance account limit
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas | Founded in – 2017



Defence Affairs

538. On April 19, Indian Navy warships will join the French flagship Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier along with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy for the 3-day “Varuna” trilateral exercise to jointly test combat skills and war game in the Persian Gulf area starting April 25. This is the first time that the UAE is participating in the Varuna maritime exercise. India and France have been holding the exercise since 1993. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3-day “Varuna” Trilateral Exercise – held in the Persian Gulf between = India + France + UAE
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Schemes & Initiatives

539. On April 19, Andhra Pradesh Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's government has provided a financial assistance of ₹65,000 Cr to the farmers under various schemes. He has launched the “YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme”. Under the scheme, an amount of ₹128.47 Cr was directly credited into the bank accounts of the 6.27 lakh farmers who had availed themselves of crop loan of up to ₹1 lakh during the 2019-20 Rabi season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – provided a financial assistance of ₹65,000 Cr to the farmers under various schemes
- Andhra Pradesh – launched the “YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme” (Outlay - ₹128.47 Cr)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

540. On April 20, The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) scheme has been extended for a period of 1 year for Health workers fighting COVID-19. The Insurance cover of up to Rs 50 lakhs has been provided under the scheme and 287 claims have been paid by the insurance company so far. The scheme is implemented by New India Assurance (NIA) Company & funded through the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Garib Kalyan Package scheme extended for a period of 1 year (Insurance cover of up to Rs 50 lakhs)
- The scheme is implemented by – New India Assurance | The scheme is funded through – NDRF

541. On April 19, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has released the first instalment of fee reimbursement under “Jagananna Vidya Deevena” scheme amounting to nearly ₹672 Cr. The money was directly transferred into the bank accounts of the mothers of 10.88 lakh students pursuing higher studies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st installment (₹672 Cr) of fee reimbursement under “Jagananna Vidya Deevena” scheme is released
- “Jagananna Vidya Deevena” – is for the Students pursuing higher studies
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



542. On April 22, Haryana government has launched the “Haryana COVID Emergency Loan Scheme” for new and old Entrepreneurs supplying medicines, oxygen and other medical facilities to COVID-19 patients in the state. The state government has set up a fund of Rs 500 Cr for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched the “Haryana COVID Emergency Loan Scheme” – with an outlay of Rs 500 Cr
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

Sports & Games

543. On April 21, Arjun Kalyan has become India’s 68th Grandmaster. The 18-year-old from Chennai crossed the 2500 ELO mark after scoring a win over Dragan Kosic in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin “Rujna Zora-3” in Serbia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Kalyan (Chess - Tamil Nadu) – became India’s 68th Grandmaster

544. On April 20, Stefanos Tsitsipas has won the men’s singles title of “Monte Carlo Masters 2021” beating Andrey Rublev 6-3, 6-3 for his first title this year and sixth overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece - Tennis) – won the men’s singles title of “Monte Carlo Masters 2021”
- Greece – Athens – Euro | Turkey – Ankara – Lira

545. On April 21, Haryana & Delhi will host the 4th edition of “Khelo India Youth Games-2021” in Panchkula, Ambala, Shahabad, Chandigarh and Delhi from November 21 to December 5, in which various sports activities under-18 category would be organised. Approx 8500 participants would take part in the “Khelo India Youth Games-2021”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana & Delhi – to host the 4th edition of “Khelo India Youth Games-2021”
- It will be held in – Panchkula, Ambala, Shahabad, Chandigarh & Delhi
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

546. On April 21, Carolina Marin and Kento Momota spearhead the list of top international entries at the much-anticipated “Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2021”. The Badminton tournament will be conducted at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi from May 11-16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2021” to be held – at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall, in New Delhi
- Yonex-Sunrise India Open” – associated with Badminton



Important Days & Dates

547. The “National Civil Services Day” is observed on April 21 every year and is dedicated to India's civil servants for their contribution and hard work in public administration. The first National Civil Service Day was observed in the year 2006. The Government of India chose April 21 as the National Civil Service Day as on this day the country's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers in 1947. Sardar Patel had referred to the civil servants as the “Steel frame of India”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 21 – “National Civil Services Day” (since 2006)
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers – on April 21, 1947

548. “World Creativity and Innovation Day” is an annual celebration on April 21 to celebrate the potential of creativity and innovation industry around the world. The celebration of the “World Creativity and Innovation Week” begins on the birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci on 15th April. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 21 – “World Creativity and Innovation Day”
- April 15 – Birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci

549. April 22 has marked “Earth Day”, an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. The year 2021 marked the 51st anniversary of the annual celebrations. This year's theme for Earth Day is “Restore Our Earth”. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 as “International Mother Earth Day”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 22 – International Mother Earth Day or Earth Day (since 2009)
- Theme – “Restore Our Earth”

550. As Jharkhand continues to witness a surge in coronavirus cases, the CM Hemant Soren has announced lockdown across the state from April 22-29. The CM stated that the lockdown period will be observed as “Health Safety Week”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 22 to 29 – “Health Safety Week” – by Jharkhand
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

551. “Administrative Professionals Day” was recently observed on April 21 across many countries. It is also known as Secretaries Day or Admin Day.

Key Points:

- April 21 – “Administrative Professionals Day” or “Secretaries Day” or “Admin Day”



552. Every year, the “International Girls in ICT Day” is globally observed on the 4th Thursday in April. This year, the 10th anniversary of the International Girls in ICT (Information & Communication Technologies) day was marked on April 22. This year the theme was “Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 22 (4th Thursday) – 10th anniversary of the “International Girls in ICT Day”
- Theme – “Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures”

553. UN English Language Day and Spanish Language Day are observed annually on April 23. The aim is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity by exploring the languages. English Language Day marks the birthday and date of death of famed writer William Shakespeare. While, Spanish language day marks the death anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 23 – English Language Day & Spanish Language Day
- UN language days:
 - Arabic (18 December)
 - Chinese (20 April)
 - English (23 April)
 - French (20 March)
 - Russian (6 June)
 - Spanish (23 April)



554. “World Book Day”, also known as “World Book and Copyright Day”, is celebrated across the globe on April 23 every year. It is organised by the UNESCO. This year marked the 25th edition of World Book Day. This year, the theme is “To Share a Story”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 23 – 25th edition of “World Book Day” or “World Book & Copyright Day” – by the UNESCO
- Theme – “To Share a Story”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

555. On April 13-14, The National Investigation Agency (NIA) organised the 2-day online event of the BRICS nations on the topic of “Misuse of Internet for Terrorist Purposes and Role of Digital Forensics in Terrorist Investigations”. The seminar was inaugurated by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla. The NIA organised the seminar as India is holding the BRICS chair for the year 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIA – organised “Misuse of Internet for Terrorist Purposes and Role of Digital Forensics in Terrorist Investigations”
- The seminar was inaugurated by – Ajay Bhalla (Union Home Secretary)
- HQs of NIA – New Delhi | Director General – Y. C. Modi



556. On April 20, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has addressed the 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccine, through video conference. It is the world's largest gathering of stakeholders striving to develop and deploy new vaccines to prevent Tuberculosis (TB). The forum is convened by the "Stop TB Partnership" Working Group on New Vaccines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed 5th "Global Forum on TB Vaccine" – convened by Stop TB Partnership Working Group
- Chairman of "Stop TB Partnership" working group – Dr Harsh Vardhan
- Target to eliminate TB from India – by 2025 & from the entire world – by 2030

557. PM Narendra Modi has participated in "Leaders' Summit on Climate" hosted by US President Joe Biden on April 22. The US had invited 40 world leaders for the 2-day virtual Summit to galvanize efforts by the major economies to tackle the climate crisis. The PM will make his remarks on "Our Collective Sprint to 2030". During the Summit, the US has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52% below its 2005 emissions levels by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi participated in the "Leaders' Summit on Climate" – hosted by US
- Theme – "Our Collective Sprint to 2030"

558. The 20th edition of "2021 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference" was held in Boao, a coastal resort in South China's Hainan Province. This 4-day annual conference is themed around "A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Cooperation". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 20th edition of "Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference" – held in Boao, Hainan, China
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

559. On April 20, Argentina, Brazil, Uganda and Vanuatu were announced as the Global Winners of the ICC Development Awards for 2020. The awards were given as given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Global Winners of the ICC Development Awards for 2020:

Category	Winner
100% Cricket Female Cricket Initiative of the Year	Brazil
ICC Development Initiative of the Year	Argentina
ICC Digital Fan Engagement of the Year	Vanuatu
Cricket 4 Good Social Impact Initiative of the Year	Uganda



560. On April 22, The 'Life is Beautiful' filmmaker & Oscar-winning Italian director-actor Roberto Benigni has been honoured with the "Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement" of the 78th Venice International Film Festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Roberto Benigni (Italy) – received "Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement" – at 78th Venice Int. Film Festival
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

561. On April 22, Software-engineer turned social entrepreneur, Rumana Sinha Sehgal has been awarded the prestigious "Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021" by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rumana Sinha Sehgal (Hyderabad) – awarded "Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021"

562. On April 22, Vibha Harish, a 25-year old entrepreneur from Bengaluru, has featured in the "Forbes Asia's 30 Under-30 2021" list. Her firm Cosmix, a herbal nutrition and plant-based supplement brand offering, is now one of the fastest-growing ventures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vibha Harish (Bengaluru) – featured in the "Forbes Asia's 30 Under-30 2021"



563. Siddharth Singh Longjam will take over as the National Anti-Doping Agency's Director General, succeeding Navin Agarwal. Siddharth is currently serving as joint secretary in the sports ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Siddharth Singh Longjam – to take over as the Director General of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)
- HQs of NADA – New Delhi | CEO – Navin Agarwal | Motto – Play Fair | Founded in – 2005

564. On April 23, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, has been appointed as External Auditor of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Hague for a 3-year term starting this year. In the past also, CAG has held the position of External Auditor of OPCW during the period from 1997 to 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Girish Chandra Murmu – appointed as External Auditor of the OPCW for 3 years
- HQs of OPCW – Hague, Netherlands | Director General – Fernando Arias | External Auditor – GC Murmu

565. On April 22, The RBI has approved appointment of former Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for 3 years effective from May 5, 2021. He is a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – approved appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank – for 3 years
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

566. On April 22, NASSCOM has appointed Rekha M. Menon (Chairperson & senior MD at Accenture in India) as its Chairperson for 2021-22. With this, she becomes the first woman to take on the role of chairperson for NASSCOM in its 30-year history. She succeeds U. B. Pravin Rao. NASSCOM also announced the appointment of Krishnan Ramanujam as their vice chairperson for 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rekha M. Menon – appointed as Chairperson of NASSCOM (1st woman Chairperson)
- Krishnan Ramanujam – appointed as Vice Chairperson of NASSCOM
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam

567. On April 19, Tata Consumer Products (TCP) has announced the appointment of Deepika Bhan as the company’s new President for packaged foods in India, effective from 27 April. She takes over from Richa Arora. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Bhan – appointed as the new President of Tata Consumer Products (TCP)
- HQs of TCP – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Sunil A. D’Souza

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

568. On April 20, Heads of States and Heads of Governments, senior officials and other stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region are set to take stock of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and scale-up regional cooperation in response to the pandemic, according to the report titled “Beyond the pandemic: building back better from crises in Asia and the Pacific” released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Beyond the pandemic: building back better from crises in Asia and the Pacific” – released by UNESCAP
- HQs of UNESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary – Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

569. On April 21, India has ranked 142 among 180 countries in the “World Press Freedom Index 2021” published by the Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The index is topped by Norway followed by Finland and Denmark, while Eritrea is at the bottom. China is ranked 177. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Press Freedom Index 2021” – published by the Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- India – 142nd | 1st – Norway, 2nd – Finland, 3rd – Denmark | Bottom – Eritrea

570. On April 20, Less than 4% of Indian farmers have adopted Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Systems, according to a study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) supported by the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU). Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has achieved a coverage area of 5 million ha after decades of sustained promotion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Less than 4% of Indian farmers adopted Sustainable Agricultural Practices & Systems – According to CEEW
- HQs of CEEW – New Delhi | Head – Arunabha Ghosh

571. On April 22, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Tamil Nadu is the only Indian university to make it in the world’s top 100 Educational Institutions doing the most in the fight towards sustainability, according to the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. The university is ranked 81st in the overall ranking. The UK’s University of Manchester has stood at the top spot overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking: topped by University of Manchester (UK)
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (TN) – the only Indian university in the world’s top 100 Educational Institutions (81st)

572. On April 21, India has been ranked at the 87th position among 115 countries in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report. The report was prepared in collaboration with Accenture. Sweden has topped the Index, followed by Norway and Denmark. China stood at 68th position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Energy Transition Index (ETI)” – prepared by WEF + Accenture
- India – 87th | 1st – Sweden, 2nd – Norway, 3rd – Denmark

573. India’s demographic advantage will overtake China’s by 2035, according to the report released by People’s Bank of China (PBoC). The report continued saying that since India’s demographic advantage is expected to grow for at least the next 3 decades. Chinese economists have cautioned, China will experience a negative growth after 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s demographic advantage will overtake China’s – by 2035
- China will experience a negative growth – after 2025
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



Acquisitions & Mergers

574. On April 16, Flipkart will acquire online travel firm Cleartrip valued at \$40 million. Cleartrip will, however, continue to operate as a separate brand and retain all its employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart – to acquire online travel firm ‘Cleartrip’ valued at \$40 million
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

575. The government will divest 20% stake in National Fertilizers (NFL) and 10% of its holding in Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCFL) through the offer for sale (OFS) route. It currently holds 75.71% stake in NFL and 75% stake in RCFL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will divest 20% stake in NFL & 10% stake in RCFL
- HQs of NFL – Noida, UP | MD & Chairman – Virendra Nath Datt
- HQs of RCFL – Mumbai, MH | MD & Chairman – R. G. Rajan

576. On April 21, DCB Bank has acquired 9% in Techfino Capital Private Limited (TCPL). Techfino, a NBFC headquartered in Bengaluru offers customised consumer loans in the education and healthcare sectors through its technology platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DCB Bank – acquired 9% in Techfino Capital Private Ltd (Bangalore)
- HQs of DCB bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Murali M Natrajan
- DCB bank – the 1st bank to start Aadhaar-based ATM service (in 2016)

577. On April 21, Tech Mahindra has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider DigitalOnUS for \$120 million. The acquisition will strengthen Tech Mahindra’s cloud-native development and hybrid cloud infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra – acquired the entire stake in DigitalOnUS for \$120 million
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani
- HQs of DigitalOnUS – San Jose, California, US



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

578. In its endeavour to facilitate various forms of investment Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) had entered into an MoU with the World Trade Center (WTC) on dated March 16, 2021 to promote and facilitate trade and investment in Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana + WTC = an MoU to promote and facilitate trade & investment in Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- HQs of WTC – New York, US

579. On April 20, IIT Kharagpur and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have signed an MoU towards greater collaboration in issues and areas related to the development of cooperatives, agriculture and allied sectors and to the holistic approach towards sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur + NCDC = an MoU to promote sustainable development in Agriculture & allied sectors
- HQs of NCDC – New Delhi | MD – Sundeep Kumar Nayak

580. On April 20, The Union Cabinet has given its ex post facto approval to the amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021. The Cabinet approved a Mutual Recognition Agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. The Cabinet also gave its nod to an MoU between India and Bangladesh to setup a framework of cooperation in the area of trade remedial measures. Besides, it also approved signing of an MoU between the Competition Commission of India (CCI) & the Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil (CADE), Brazil. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet gave approval to several key initiatives:
- A Mutual Recognition Agreement between the ICAI & Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand
- An MoU between India & Bangladesh to setup a framework of cooperation in the area of trade remedial measures
- An MoU between the CCI & the Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil (CADE), Brazil

581. On April 23, Tata Steel and HSBC have partnered to successfully execute a blockchain-enabled, paperless trade transaction - a global first for the steel industry. The blockchain platforms - Contour & essDOCS are used under the transaction. The Letter of Credit (LC) was issued by HSBC UAE for Universal Tube & Plastic Industries, UAE (importer) with HSBC India as the advising and negotiating bank for Tata Steel, India (exporter). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Steel + HSBC = to implement the World's 1st blockchain enabled Paperless Transaction in the steel industry
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai | CEO – T. V. Narendran
- HQs of HSBC – London, UK | CEO – Noel Quinn



Books & Authors

582. Fitoor is an Indian romantic drama film directed by Abhishek Kapoor and it is based on Charles Dickens' 1861 novel "Great Expectations". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Great Expectations" book – authored by Charles Dickens

Obituaries

583. On April 19, Walter F. Mondale, the former Vice President of the US and champion of liberal politics, Activist government and civil rights has passed away. He was 93. He ran as the Democratic candidate for president in 1984. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Walter Mondale – former Vice President of the US – passed away
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

584. On April 20, Chad's President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno has passed away. He was killed in the battle against the rebels from Libya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Idriss Deby Itno – President of Chad – passed away
- Chad – N'Djamena – CFA franc

585. On April 20, Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Maidavolu Narasimham, famously known as the 'Father of Indian Banking Reforms', has passed away at the age of 94. Narasimham was the 13th governor of RBI and he served as the central bank head from May 2, 1977 to November 30, 1977. The book titled "From Reserve Bank to Finance Ministry and Beyond: Some Reminiscences" was authored by him. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Narasimham – Former RBI Governor – passed away ('Father of Indian Banking Reforms')
- "From Reserve Bank to Finance Ministry and Beyond: Some Reminiscences" – authored by M. Narasimham
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

586. On April 21, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, a renowned Islamic scholar & peace activist has passed away. The 96-year-old scholar was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2000 and was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan this year in 'Spiritualism'. He was the founder of Centre for Peace and Spirituality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maulana Wahiduddin Khan – a renowned Islamic scholar & peace Activist – passed away
- He was the founder of – Centre for Peace and Spirituality
- "Padma Bhushan - 2000" | "Padma Vibhushan - 2021" in 'Spiritualism'



587. On April 21, Eminent poet and critic Sankha Ghosh has passed away in Kolkata. He was 89. He was awarded 'Padma Bhushan' in 2011 in 'Literature' and 'Jnanpith Award' in 2016. He was one of most important names in Bengali poetry. He was awarded the 'Sahitya Akademi' Award in 1977 for his poetry collection "Babarer Prarthana". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sankha Ghosh – Eminent Bengali Poet & Critic – passed away
- 'Padma Bhushan' in 2011 in 'Literature' | 'Jnanpith Award' in 2016
- 'Sahitya Akademi' Award in 1977 for his poetry "Babarer Prarthana"

588. On April 20, Chairman of Karnataka Yakshagana Academy and a scholar M. A. Hegde has passed away in Bengaluru on April 18. He was 73. He was also a Talamaddale 'arthadari' and Yakshagana artiste, had written at least 15 Yakshagana 'Prasangas'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. A. Hegde – Chairman of Karnataka Yakshagana Academy – passed away

589. On April 19, Eminent Director, Producer and Screenwriter Sumitra Bhave has passed away in Pune following a brief illness. She was 78. Ms. Bhave was a veritable "social scientist" filmmaker. She had won 3 National Film Awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumitra Bhave – a Director, Producer & Screenwriter (Marathi Cinema) – passed away (3 National Film Awards)

590. On April 21, Renowned Qawwali Singer Gulam Farid Sabri of the Sabri Brothers duo has passed away in Jaipur. He was 58. Sabri Brothers are known for the evergreen numbers like Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin Der Na Ho Jaye and Ek Mulakat Zaruri Hai Sanam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Farid Sabri – a Renowned Qawwali Singer – passed

Person in News

591. On April 20, Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, becoming the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Priyanka Mohite (Maharashtra) – became the 1st Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna
- Mt Annapurna (10th highest mountain peak in the world) – located in Nepal



Science & Technology

592. On April 17, Meghalaya has yielded India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky disks, taking the species count of the flying mammal in the country to 130. The disk-footed bat (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) was recorded in the north-eastern State's Lailad area near the Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary, about 1,000 km west of its nearest known habitat in Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first bamboo-dwelling bat or disk-footed bat (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) – discovered in Meghalaya
- Total species count of the flying mammal in India – 130
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

593. The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA) hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences successfully returned to Cape Town on April 10, 2021, after completing a journey of 12,000 nautical miles in 94 days, including stopovers. The team reached its destination Bharati station on February 27 and Maitri station on March 8 in Antarctica. Bharati and Maitri are India's permanent research base stations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to "Antarctica" (40-ISEA) – successfully returned to Cape Town, South Africa
- It was hosted by – Ministry of Earth Sciences
- India's permanent research base stations – Bharati & Maitri

594. On April 20, The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru of DRDO has developed SpO₂ (Blood Oxygen Saturation) supplemental oxygen delivery system for soldiers posted at extreme high-altitude areas. This automatic system can also prove to be a boon during the current Covid-19 situation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DEBEL-DRDO (Bengaluru) – developed "SpO₂" (Blood Oxygen Saturation) Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

595. On April 17, A student at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, a research institute in the Canary Islands, has discovered a new super Earth orbiting the star "GJ 740", a red dwarf. It only takes 2.4 days to complete one orbit around its star. It's called a 'super' Earth because of its massive size. Super Earths are at least twice the size of our planet and up to 10 times its mass. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A research institute in the Canary Islands discovered "GJ 740" - a new super Earth orbiting the star
- It only takes 2.4 days to complete one orbit or one year



596. On April 21, IIT Kharagpur has successfully commercialised its flagship healthcare product “COVIRAP” the novel diagnostic technology to zero on infectious diseases including COVID-19. The results can be made available within 45 minutes of obtaining the patient sample. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur – successfully commercialised its flagship healthcare product “COVIRAP” diagnostic technology

597. On April 20, Russia is ready to start building its own space station with the aim of launching it into orbit by 2030. The project would mark a new chapter for Russian space exploration and an end to more than two decades of close cooperation with the United States aboard the ageing International Space Station (ISS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia is planning to launch its own space station by 2030
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

598. On April 16, Hinduja flagship firm Ashok Leyland has delivered the first lot of Light Bulletproof Vehicles (LBPV) to the Indian Air Force in collaboration with Lockheed Martin. The LBPV is an adapted version of Lockheed Martin's CVNG (common vehicle next-gen). It has been developed under the transfer of technology (TOT) from Lockheed Martin to Ashok Leyland. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashok Leyland + Lockheed Martin – delivered 1st lot of Light Bullet-proof Vehicles (LBPV) to the Indian Air Force
- HQs of Ashok Leyland – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Vipin Sondhi (owned by Hinduja Group)
- HQs of Lockheed Martin – Maryland, USA | CEO – Jim Taiclet

599. On April 22, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has Shared on the official Instagram of NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope’s, the post features Interacting Galaxies Arp 273, which is a combination of spiral galaxy UGC 1810 and UGC 1813. According to NASA, Arp 273 lies in the constellation Andromeda and is roughly 300 million light-years away from Earth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA released an image of “interacting galaxies Arp 273” – captured by NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope
- ‘Arp 273’ – lies roughly 300 million light-years away from Earth
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

600. On April 22, NASA has sent the ‘Perseverance’ rover to Mars with some bonus technology called the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment or “MOXIE” - a device that can turn carbon dioxide into oxygen, much as trees do on Earth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA sent the ‘Perseverance’ rover to Mars with “MOXIE” technology – that can turn Co₂ into Oxygen
- MOXIE – Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958





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