



**Bipin Nambiar**  
(SBI PO 2018)



**Shiraz Khan**  
(SBI Clerk 2018)



**Kuldeep Yadav**  
(SBI PO 2018)



**Rajat Saxena**  
(IBPS Clerk 2018)



**Anupam Tyagi**  
(IBPS PO 2018)

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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

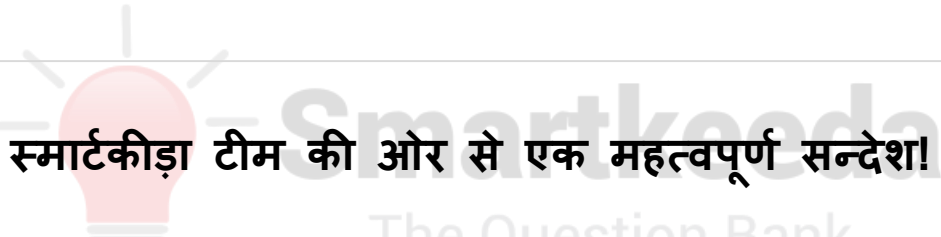
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of April 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 पढना, 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

**601.** On April 23, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has signed its first Power Purchase Agreement for the sale of 100 Mw Solar Power to Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL). The tenure of the agreement period is for 25 years. CIL, the world's largest coal-producing company last month had won a 100 Mw solar power project in a reverse auction conducted by GUVNL. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CIL – signed its 1<sup>st</sup>s Power Purchase Agreement for the sale of 100 Mw Solar Power to Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, WB | Director – Anil Kumar Jha | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

**602.** On April 23, The CII Indian Green Building Council has launched “IGBC Mission on Net Zero” to facilitate India achieve net zero carbon emission status by 2050. More than 250 leading organisations in building sector have committed to achieve Net Zero status for their new and existing buildings. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CII Indian Green Building Council – launched “IGBC Mission on Net Zero” to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2050
- HQs of Indian Green Building Council – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Vasudevan Suresh

**603.** On April 23, The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted emergency use approval for pharma major Zydus Cadila's antiviral drug “Virafin”, to treat moderate COVID-19 disease in adults. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- DCGI – granted emergency use approval for “Virafin” - antiviral drug – of Zydus Cadila
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani
- HQs of Zydus Cadila – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Pankaj Patel

**604.** On April 23, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has launched a new and fresh concept to rejuvenate the International flyers departing from Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). DIAL has recently introduced the first of its kind oxygen bar, named “Oxy Pure”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Indira Gandhi Int. Airport (Delhi Airport) – became 1<sup>st</sup> to introduce the first of its kind oxygen bar called “Oxy Pure”

**605.** On April 24, The Government plans to bring around 9 million hectares of land under Mustard Cultivation and also aims to raise the production to around 17 million tonnes (mt) by 2025-26. A webinar on ‘Mission Mustard 2025’ was organised by Solvent Extractors’ Association (SEA) of India. The government is targeting Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala for non-traditional areas. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Government plans to bring around 9 million hectares of land under 'Mustard Cultivation'
- Government aims to achieve the production of around 17 million tonnes (mt) by 2025-26
- Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India – organised a webinar on 'Mission Mustard 2025'

**606.** On April 24, Ola Electric has revealed its plans to set up the world's largest electric two-wheeler charging network called 'Hypercharger Network'. Ola along with its partners would set it up at an estimated cost of \$2 billion over a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ola Electric – to set up world's largest EV two-wheeler charging network - 'Hypercharger Network'
- It would be set up at an estimated cost of \$2 billion over a period of 5 years
- HQs of Ola – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Bhavish Aggarwal

**607.** On April 26, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed insurers to invest in debt securities issued by Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). Instruments rated or downgraded below AA should form part of 'other investments'. As per IRDAI, 75% of the insurers' investments have to be in AAA-rated assets, while 25% can go to instruments rated AA or even A-. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI – allowed insurers to invest in debt securities issued by InvITs & REITs (at least 75% in AAA rated assets)
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**608.** On April 24, The time for payment of the amount payable under the "Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020", without an additional amount, has been extended to June 30. The government has also extended the timeline for passing of any order for assessment or reassessment under the Income-tax Act, 1961 (hereinafter called 'the Act'). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government extended deadline for making payment under 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme – to June 30

**609.** The population of dolphins in 'Chilika lake' has doubled this year compared with last year. It is India's largest brackish water lake along the Odisha coast. Three species were recorded during the census, with 544 Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins sighted this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The population of Dolphins in 'Chilika lake' (Odisha) – doubled this year compared with last year
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



**610.** On April 26, To provide better educational opportunities for Ladakhi students, the Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army has initiated the project “Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fire & Fury Corps (Indian Army) – initiated “Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness” project
- The project is related to – Education (for Ladakhi students)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

**611.** On April 26, The Madras High Court has called the Election Commission of India (ECI) as ‘the most irresponsible institution’ and also blamed it for the raging second wave of COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madras High Court – blamed the ECI for the raging second wave of COVID-19 (especially in Tamil Nadu & Puducherry)
- Chief Justice of Madras High Court – Justice Sanjib Banerjee

**612.** The World Health Organization (WHO) will provide 4,000 oxygen concentrators to India which is experiencing a surge in Covid-19 cases and related deaths. An ‘Oxygen Concentrator’ uses the air nearby to filter oxygen and is the best solution for oxygen supply at home. An oxygen concentrator can be used for individuals who may have low blood oxygen levels. An oxygen concentrator pulls oxygen from the surrounding air and helps in getting the oxygen a person may need. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The WHO will provide 4,000 oxygen concentrators to India amid surge in Covid-19 cases
- An ‘Oxygen Concentrator’ uses the air nearby to filter oxygen & is the best solution for Oxygen supply at home

**613.** On April 26, The 551 PSA Oxygen Generation Plants will be set up in government hospitals located in district headquarters across India with the PM-CARES fund. These plants will give a boost to the public health system and ensure that each district hospital has a captive oxygen generation facility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 551 PSA Oxygen Generation Plants – to be set up in Government Hospitals across India – with ‘PM-CARES fund’

**614.** On April 25, India has recorded 30% increase in Agricultural Export last year in comparison to 2019-20 despite Covid situation. Rs 1.3 lakh Cr of export business was recorded last year in comparison to Rs 1.1 lakh Cr rupees in previous financial year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India recorded 30% increase in Agricultural Export last year
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur | Established in – 1986





**615.** On April 26, The foundation stone of the “Integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot” was laid by Dr. K J Sreeram, Director, CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai on the occasion of 74<sup>th</sup> foundation day of CLRI on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. The pilot is part of the Indo-German project ‘Pyrasol’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. K J Sreeram – laid the foundation stone of the “Integrated Solar Dryer & Pyrolysis pilot” – at Chennai, TN
- April 23 – 74<sup>th</sup> foundation day of CSIR-CLRI ([Chennai](#))

**616.** On April 27, The cost of vaccinating all Indians above the age of 18 years against COVID-19 will be just 0.36% of India's annual GDP (Gross Domestic Product), according to a study by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra). It pegged the overall cost at Rs 67,193 Cr. Union government will incur Rs 20,870 Cr and state governments together will incur Rs 46,323 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ind-Ra: Cost of vaccinating all Indians above 18 years against COVID-19 will be 0.36% of India’s GDP (Rs 67,193 Cr)
- HQs of Ind-Ra – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**617.** On April 26, Google CEO Sundar Pichai and his Microsoft counterpart Satya Nadella have assured to help India as the country grapples with a ravaging coronavirus crisis. Google is providing Rs 135 Cr in funding to @GiveIndia, @UNICEF for medical supplies, orgs supporting high-risk communities, and grants to help spread critical information. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google is providing Rs 135 Cr funding to India for medical supplies to fight against COVID-19
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

## International Affairs

**618.** On April 22, India has built infrastructures for 3 Educational Institutions - Shree Rambha Higher Secondary School, Shree Laxmi Higher Secondary School and Shree Nava Adarsha Multiple Campus in Nepal's Palpa district and handed it over. It was built with Government of India's financial assistance of NRs 98.37 Million. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India built infrastructures for 3 Educational Institutions in Palpa district, Nepal
- Government of India's financial assistance for this – NRs 98.37 Million
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari





**619.** On April 23, Japan's health ministry has approved the use of rheumatoid arthritis drug "Baricitinib" for COVID-19 patients, the third such approval after Remdesivir and Dexamethasone. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Japan – approved the use of rheumatoid arthritis drug "Baricitinib" for COVID-19 patients
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**620.** On April 23, The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to make Washington, D.C. (also known as the District of Columbia) the 51<sup>st</sup> state. By a vote of 216-208, the Democratic-controlled House approved the initiative with no Republican support. The new state would be named "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- U.S. House of Representatives – passed a bill to make Washington, D.C. (District of Columbia) the 51<sup>st</sup> state
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**621.** On April 25, China's first Mars rover has been named "Zhurong" after a traditional fire God. The rover is aboard the Tianwen-1 probe and is due to land in May to look for evidence of life. The rover's title fits with the Chinese name for Mars - "Huo Xing" or fire star. China would become the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a robot rover on Mars. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China's 1<sup>st</sup> Mars rover is named "Zhurong" after a traditional fire God (It will be landed on Mars in May)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**622.** On April 24, Saudi Arabia is shipping 80 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen to India as the country is running low on supplies due to an unprecedented spike in coronavirus cases. The supply shipment is being undertaken in cooperation with the Adani group and Linde company. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saudi Arabia is shipping 80 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen to India
- The supply shipment is being undertaken in cooperation with = Adani group + Linde plc
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani

**623.** On April 26, Saudi Arabia will join the US, Canada, Norway and Qatar in forming 'Net Zero Producers Forum' for oil and gas producers to discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. US President Joe Biden unveiled plans to cut emissions by 50%-52% from 2005 levels. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saudi Arabia – to join the US, Canada, Norway & Qatar in forming 'Net Zero Producers Forum'
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman



**624.** On April 20, A New Global Partnership called “Blue Nature Alliance” partners to protect 18 million square kilometers of ocean globally over 5 years. It is a collaboration led by Conservation International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation, and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation. It aims to achieve a global target of conserving at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Blue Nature Alliance” partners to protect 18 million sq. km of ocean globally over 5 years

**625.** On April 26, Project “DANTAK” is commemorating its ‘Diamond Jubilee’ in Bhutan as it has completed 60 years. Project DANTAK was established on April 24, 1961 as a result of the visionary leadership of His Majesty the Third King and then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Project “DANTAK” is commemorating its ‘Diamond Jubilee’ (completed 60 years) – in Bhutan
- It was established – on April 24, 1961
- [Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering](#)

**626.** On April 26, New Zealand has decided to develop a drone that is capable of finding and tracking ‘Māui Dolphins’ using artificial intelligence. There are just 63 Māui dolphins remaining off of the west coast of New Zealand. It is developed by non-profit organisation MĀUI63. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- New Zealand decided to develop a drone that is capable of finding and tracking “Māui Dolphins”
- There are just 63 “Māui Dolphins” remaining off of the west coast of New Zealand
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**627.** ICICI Bank and SBI Cards have seen robust growth in Credit Card issuances between December 2020 and February 2021, coinciding with the temporary halt on HDFC Bank sourcing new cards. HDFC Bank has continued to maintain its market leadership in the credit card segment. The India Digital Payments Report 2020 by Worldline had revealed that 15 banks account for 95% of credit cards issued in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank & SBI Cards – noticed a strong growth in new Credit card issuance from Dec 2020 to Feb 2021
- HDFC Bank – India’s leading lender of Credit Cards (as of Feb 2021)
- 15 banks account for 95% of Credit Cards issued in India
- [HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”](#)



**628.** On April 23, The RBI has restricted American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Ltd from on-boarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1 for violating data storage norms. These are Payment System Operators authorised to operate card networks in India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI restricted American Express & Diners Club – from on-boarding new customers from May 1
- PSOs are authorised to operate card networks in India – under Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)
- HQs of American Express – New York, USA | CEO – Stephen Squeri
- HQs of Diners Club – Riverwoods, Illinois, US | President & CEO – Eduardo Tobon

**629.** On April 24, The RBI has extended the interim Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit of Rs 51,560 Cr for all states and Union Territories up to September 30, 2021. Indian States & UTs can avail Special Drawing Facility (SDF), WMA and Overdraft at an interest rate equal to the RBI's repo rate which is 4%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI extended the interim WMA limit of Rs 51,560 Cr for all states & UTs - up to Sep 30, 2021
- Indian States & UTs can avail SDF, WMA & Overdraft at an interest rate of 4%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**630.** On April 22, Axis Direct - the flagship brand of Axis Securities, a fully-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank, has launched a revolutionary mobile app - "Axis Direct RING" to make investment in Stock Markets simple, fast, and rewarding. Axis Direct RING scans the market meticulously to help investors find investment opportunities every 60 seconds. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Direct – launched a revolutionary mobile app - "Axis Direct RING" to make investment in Stock Markets
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"
- MD & CEO of Axis Direct – B. Gopkumar

**631.** On April 13, In order to encourage people to get Covid-19 jabs, state-run Central Bank of India has launched a special deposit scheme offering an additional interest rate of 25 basis points above the applicable card rate for those who get vaccinated. The new product - "Immune India Deposit Scheme" has a maturity of 1,111 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central Bank of India – launched "Immune India Deposit Scheme"
- Additional Interest Rate – 25 basis points | Maturity period – 1,111 days
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Matam Venkata Rao



**632.** On April 21, The RBI has relaxed the dividend payout norms of commercial banks and allowed them to pay up to 50% of what they paid before Covid from the profits for the fiscal ended March 31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI allowed commercial banks to pay up to 50% of pre-Covid dividends
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**633.** On April 26, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) can now start operations in Gujarat’s GIFT city. This includes both local and global NBFCs. They are allowed by the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) to offer a whole range of services - loans, investment banking, exotic derivative trades, third-party product sale, etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IFSCA – allowed ‘NBFCs’ to start operations in Gujarat’s GIFT city
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

**634.** On April 24, The RBI in its circular “Corporate Governance in Banks - Appointment of Directors and Constitution of Committees of the Board” has asked private banks that the Chair of the board should be an Independent Director. The post of the MD & CEO cannot be held by the same person for more than 15 years. RBI has also fixed a maximum age of 70 for MD & CEO and 75 for non-executive directors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI’s “Corporate Governance in Banks - Appointment of Directors & Constitution of Committees of the Board”
- RBI fixed 15 years as the tenure for the MD & CEO or Whole-Time Directors (WTDs) to hold their post in bank
- RBI also fixed a maximum age of 70 for MD & CEO & 75 for Non-Executive Directors

**635.** On April 24, SBI Mutual Fund has launched “SBI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund”, an open-ended index scheme which would replicate the performance of the Nifty Next 50 Index. The NFO will open on April 28 and close for subscriptions on May 11. ‘NIFTY Next 50’ has completed 25 years on April 22, 2021. It is the flagship index of the National Stock Exchange’s (NSE) launched in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI Mutual Fund – launched “SBI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund” an open-ended index scheme
- ‘NIFTY Next 50’ – a flagship index of NSE (completed 25 years on April 22)
- HQs of SBI Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vinay M. Tonse

**636.** On April 24, Paytm has launched a new & India’s 1<sup>st</sup> video-based Wealth Community wherein users can interact with subject-matter experts on topics such as stocks, IPO, ETFs, mutual funds, among others. The Paytm Wealth community is initially being offered in beta mode on the Paytm Money platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm – launched a new & India’s 1<sup>st</sup> video-based Wealth Community
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar | Founded in – 2009



## Defence Affairs

**637.** On April 22, From April 19 to 23, The Indian Air Force (IAF) chief, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria has made an official visit of 5 days to France aimed at bolstering the level of interaction between the two air forces. He flagged off 4 Rafale fighter jets for India from a military air base in France. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> ferry of Rafale jets from France to India and their arrival will take the total number of Rafale jets in the IAF inventory to 18. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- RKS Bhadauria – made an official visit of 5 days to France
- RKS Bhadauria – flagged off 4 Rafale fighter jets for India from a military air base in France
- This was the 5<sup>th</sup> ferry of Rafale jets | Now, total number of Rafale jets in the IAF inventory – 18
- [France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex](#)

**638.** On April 23, Indian Navy has sent its Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) from Visakhapatnam to assist Indonesian Navy in trying to find its KRI Nanggala submarine. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – sent its Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) to help Indonesia find its ‘KRI Nanggala’ submarine
- [Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo](#)



**639.** The Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is planning to raise the maximum age of entry into the National Pension System (NPS) to 70 years from 65. The pension authority, which regulates both NPS and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), has registered 23% growth in its subscriber base under both the schemes with over 42.4 million subscribers by March 31. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- PFRDA – to raise the maximum age of entry into the National Pension System (NPS) – to 70 years (from 65)
- PFRDA – to allow subscribers who join after the age of 60 to continue their NPS accounts – till the age of 75
- [HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay](#)

**640.** On April 24, PM Narendra Modi has launched distribution of e-property cards under “SWAMITVA” (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme to 4.09 lakh property owners in 5,000 villages. The scheme will cover 6.62 lakh villages by 2025. PM Narendra Modi has also conferred ‘National Panchayat Awards 2021’. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi launched distribution of e-property cards under “SWAMITVA” scheme
- The scheme will cover 6.62 lakh villages – by 2025
- SWAMITVA – Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas



# Sports & Games

**641.** On April 21, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned United Arab Emirates cricketer Qadeer Ahmed Khan for 5 years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Qadeer Ahmed Khan ([UAE - Cricketer](#)) – banned for 5 years by the ICC
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney

**642.** On April 21, A 20-member Indian contingent has created history by securing 11 medals (8 Gold + 3 Bronze) at the on-going “AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships” held in Kielce, Poland. India women’s team also finished as the No. 1 team with 7 medals. India has topped the overall medals tally which was followed by Russia & Uzbekistan. All the women finalists - Gitika (48kg) Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg), Poonam (57kg), Vinka (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69kg), T Sanamacha Chanu (75kg) and Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) registered victories and finished on the top of the podium. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India topped the medals tally with 11 medals (8 Gold + 3 Bronze) – at “AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships”
- The Championship was held in – Kielce, Poland
- HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev (from Russia)

**643.** On April 25, Rafael Nadal of Spain has won the Barcelona Open for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. He lifts the trophy after winning the final Godo tennis tournament against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in Barcelona, Spain. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – won the “Barcelona Open” for the 12<sup>th</sup> time
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

**644.** Indian boxer Amit Panghal (52kg) has won a Bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. Amit was the lone Indian to make the medal rounds of the Governor's Cup. He also became India's first world championship finalist in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Amit Panghal ([Indian boxer](#)) – won a Bronze medal at the Governor's Cup – in St. Petersburg, Russia

**645.** India's Jhilli Dalabehera has clinched the Gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Jhilli lifted 69kg in the snatch and followed that up by 88kg in clean jerk. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Jhilli Dalabehera ([Weightlifting](#)) – won Gold medal in the 45kg category at the “Asian Weightlifting Championship”
- The Championship was held in – Tashkent, Uzbekistan



## Important Days & Dates

**646.** The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Since then, the “National Panchayati Raj Day” is celebrated on April 24 every year in India. The day is annually commemorated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- April 24 – “National Panchayati Raj Day” (since 2010)

**647.** “World Veterinary Day” or “World Day for Laboratory Animals” is widely observed annually on the last Saturday of April, every year across the world. This year, it falls on April 24. In 1863, in Hamburg (Germany), Veterinary College Professor John Gamgee from Edinburgh led the first International Veterinary Congress meeting. This year, the theme of “World Veterinary Day” is “The Veterinarian Response to the Covid-19 Crisis”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- April 24 (last Saturday of April) – “World Veterinary Day” or “World Day for Laboratory Animals”
- Theme – “The Veterinarian Response to the Covid-19 Crisis”

**648.** The United Nations “International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace” was observed on April 24 to promote the 3 pillars of the United Nations - Peace & Security, Development and Human Rights. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- April 24 – UN “International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”
- 3 pillars of UN: Peace & Security, Development and Human Rights

**649.** The week from 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April is observed globally as “World Immunization Week”. The aim is to raise awareness about and increase immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. This year, the theme is “Vaccines bring us closer”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- April 24 to 30 – World Immunization Week
- Theme – “Vaccines bring us closer”

**650.** “World Penguin Day” is annually celebrated on April 25. It encourages people to learn more about penguins and their environment, how important they are to our ecosystems and the threats that they face. Penguins are flightless birds. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- April 25 – “World Penguin Day”





**651.** “International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day” is observed on April 26. This year, the day marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on 26 April 1986 in Ukraine - one of the most serious nuclear accidents in history. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- April 26 – “International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day”
- 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on 26 April 1986 in Ukraine
- [Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky](#)

**652.** “International Delegates Day” was established in 2019 by the UN General Assembly. It is observed annually on April 25. The day seeks to commemorate the 850 delegates from fifty countries who participated in the San Francisco Conference in 1945. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- April 25 – “International Delegate’s Day” – by UNGA (since 2019)

**653.** “World Intellectual Property Day” is observed on April 26 each year with a variety of events and activities worldwide. It aims to increase people’s awareness and understanding of intellectual property (IP). This year, the theme is “IP and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs): Taking your ideas to market”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- April 26 – “World Intellectual Property Day” (since 2000)
- Theme – “IP and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs): Taking your ideas to market”

**654.** The World Malaria Day was observed on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and the theme of this year was “Reaching the zero-malaria target”. India represents 3% of the global malaria burden. The WHO launched E-2025 initiative to end the transmission of malaria in 25 more countries by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- April 25 – “World Malaria Day” | Theme – “Reaching the Zero-Malaria Target”
- The WHO launched E-2025 initiative to end the transmission of malaria in 25 more countries by 2025

**655.** The “World Day for Safety and Health at Work” is celebrated every year on April 28 to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. The Day was first observed in 2003 by the International Labour Organization (ILO). 28 April is also observed as the “International Commemoration Day for Deceased and Injured Workers”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- April 28 – “World Day for Safety & Health at Work” – by the ILO (since 2003)
- April 28 – “International Commemoration Day for Deceased and Injured Workers”



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**656.** On April 19, Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul was awarded a top European rights prize called “Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize” (8<sup>th</sup> edition) in recognition of her fight for women’s rights in the kingdom. It is awarded annually for civil society action in defence of human rights by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Loujain al-Hathloul (Saudi Arabia) – awarded a top European rights prize called “Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize”
- It is awarded annually by – PACE (HQs – Strasbourg, France)
- Saudi Arabia – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman

**657.** On April 26, The Uttar Pradesh government has won the “E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021” ranking first in Category I. UP was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh at the second position, while Odisha and Tamil Nadu stood third. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in “E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021” under ‘Category I’
- 2<sup>nd</sup> spot – Assam & Chhattisgarh | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Odisha & Tamil Nadu
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**658.** On April 26, Chloe Zhao’s “Nomadland” has won the Best Picture at 93<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards, where the China-born Zhao became the first woman of color to win Best Director. Other awards were given as given below. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- The 93<sup>rd</sup> Academy Awards (Oscars):

Category	Winner
Best Picture	‘Nomadland’
Best Director	Chloe Zhao (for ‘Nomadland’)
Best Actor	Anthony Hopkins (for ‘The Father’)
Best Actress	Frances McDormand (for ‘Nomadland’)
Best Animated Feature Film	‘Soul’
Best International Feature Film	‘Another Round’ (Denmark)
Best Documentary Film	‘My Octopus Teacher’

**659.** On April 27, Dr Krithi K. Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 “WILD Innovator Award”. This award is given by the “WILD ELEMENTS Foundation”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Dr Krithi K. Karanth – chosen as the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian & Asian woman for “WILD Innovator Award - 2021”
- Location of Centre for Wildlife Studies – Bengaluru, Karnataka



# Appointments & Resignations

**660.** On April 25, Armenia's Prime Minister 'Nikol Pashinyan' has resigned to enable snap election. He will continue to act as the the country's leader until the election. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Nikol Pashinyan – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Armenia
- Armenia – Yerevan – Dram

**661.** On April 26, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given approval to the appointment of Arun Raste as MD and CEO of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) for a period of 5 years. He is currently associated with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) as an Executive Director. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Arun Raste – appointed as MD & CEO of NCDEX – for a period of 5 years
- HQs of NCDEX – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vijay Kumar Venkataraman

**662.** Justice Rajesh Bindal was appointed as acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. The appointment of Justice Bindal comes into effect from Thursday as Chief Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan demits office on April 28. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Rajesh Bindal – appointed as acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court
- The President of India appoints a Chief Justice of State High Court – under Article 223 of Indian Constitution

**663.** On April 27, The Japanese sports brand ASICS has appointed Ravindra Jadeja, the leading all-rounder of the Indian cricket team and Chennai Super Kings as its Brand Ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- ASICS – appointed Ravindra Jadeja as its Brand Ambassador
- HQs of ASICS – Hyogo, Japan | CEO – Motoi Oyama

**664.** On April 24, Ministry of Finance has appointed Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth as the Non-Official Director of the Central Board of the RBI. He replaces Tarun Bajaj. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Ajay Seth – appointed as Non-Official Director of the Central Board of the RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935



**665.** On April 27, Cuba's Communist Party has announced Miguel Diaz-Canel will succeed Raul Castro as the party's first secretary. Miguel was named as the 1<sup>st</sup> secretary of the Central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Miguel Diaz-Canel – appointed as the 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary of the Central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba
- [Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Díaz-Canel](#)

## **Amount & Agreements**

**666.** On April 27, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a fiscal support of \$1.5 billion to India in support of the latter's pandemic response. This fiscal support of \$1.5 billion to India formed part of the \$16.1 billion that ADB had specifically set aside for pandemic response in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB – provided a fiscal support of \$1.5 billion to India for pandemic response
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68](#)

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**667.** On April 22, As per the report titled “Gender Bias and Inclusion in Advertising in India” released by the UNICEF and the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media (GDI), women are more likely to be depicted as caretakers and parents than male characters and less likely to be shown in paid occupation. The research analysed over 1,000 television and YouTube advertisements aired across India in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Gender Bias & Inclusion in Advertising in India” released by = UNICEF + Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore](#)
- [HQs of Geena Davis Institute on GDI – Los Angeles, California, US | CEO – Madeline Di Nonno](#)

**668.** On April 26, The richer countries in the Asia-Pacific region are likely to recover quickly from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic than their poorer counterparts, according to a joint report “Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving no Country Behind” by the ADB, UNDP and the UNESCAP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving no Country Behind” report – by ADB + UNDP + UNESCAP
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68](#)
- [HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965](#)
- [HQs of UNESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary – Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana](#)



**669.** On April 28, The annual report “Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019” was released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In its report, the SIPRI has found that the world’s top military spenders the US, China and India saw their military spending go up compared to 2019. Global military spending has risen to 2.6% in 2020 despite pandemic. Last year, the US spent a total of \$778 billion, China spent \$252 billion and India’s military expenditure was \$72.9 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019” – released by SIPRI
- 1<sup>st</sup> – US (\$778 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China (\$252 billion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – India (\$72.9 billion)
- Global military spending rose to – 2.6% in 2020
- HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden | Director – Dan Smith

**670.** On April 27, The World Health Organisation (WHO) along with UNICEF and the Vaccine Alliance GAVI, has unveiled a UN-led “Global Immunization Strategy” to reach more than 50 million children who have missed their vaccination against measles and other diseases because of COVID-19 disruption. The WHO has announced to achieve this by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WHO + UNICEF + GAVI = unveiled “Global Immunization Strategy” to reach over 50 million children – by 2030
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946
- HQs of GAVI – Geneva, Switzerland | CEO – Dr Seth Berkley



**MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**671.** On April 23, The Department of Higher Education Andhra Pradesh government in collaboration with Microsoft has announced a strategic partnership to train 1.62 Cr Students & Unemployed Youth across 300-plus colleges and skill development centres in the State. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh + Microsoft = a strategic partnership to train 1.62 Cr Students & Unemployed Youth
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

**672.** On April 26, IIT Guwahati and the North East Frontier Railway (NFR) Zone have signed an MoU to collaborate on research projects aiming at improving maintenance and operations of train running in the region and other fields. The NFR is one of the 17 railway zones of the Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Guwahati + NFR = an MoU to collaborate on research projects
- HQs of NFR – Maligaon, Guwahati, Assam | Chief Administrative Officer – Anshul Gupta
- Total No. of Railway Zones in India – 18



**673.** On April 27, Business Wire India FSS (Financial Software and Systems) and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) have signed a strategic partnership to expand UPI transactions in International Markets. India is among the first countries globally to launch real-time payments rails, processing close to 3 billion transactions a month on the UPI network. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FSS + NIPL = a strategic partnership to expand UPI transactions in International Markets
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- CEO of NIPL – Ritesh Shukla

**674.** On April 27, The RBI has issued guidelines for appointment of Statutory Auditors of banks and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), including housing finance companies. SCAs/SAs should be appointed for a continuous period of 3 years. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are exempted from this procedure. Banks and UCBs will be required to take prior approval of RBI for appointment/reappointment of SCAs/SAs, on an annual basis. Entities with asset size less than Rs 15,000 Cr should appoint a minimum of 1 audit firm for conducting statutory audit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI issued guidelines for appointment of Statutory Auditors of banks & NBFCs
- Guidelines:
- SCAs/SAs should be appointed for a continuous period of 3 years
- RRBs are exempted from this procedure
- Banks and UCBs will be required to take prior approval of RBI for appointment/reappointment of SCAs/SAs
- Entities with asset size less than Rs 15,000 Cr should appoint a minimum of 1 audit firm for Statutory Audit
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

## **Books & Authors**

**675.** “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times” is a new book by Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author Amitav Ghosh, written during the course of the pandemic. HarperCollins Publishers India will publish the book as a special standalone edition in January 2022 under its prestigious Fourth Estate imprint. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times” book – authored by Amitav Ghosh
- Publisher – HarperCollins



**676.** On April 21, Aakash Ranison, a well-known Climate Change Activist and Sustainability Influencer has launched an eBook “Climate Change Explained - for one and all”. The book focuses on the serious topic of climate change and how it can affect every individual’s life. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Climate Change Explained - for one and all” – authored by Aakash Ranison

**677.** Yashaswini Chandra’s “The Tale of the Horse: A History of India on Horseback” is a charming book, both in its broad strokes as well as details. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Tale of the Horse: A History of India on Horseback” – authored by Yashaswini Chandra

## Obituaries

**678.** On April 24, Popular Gujarati and Hindi film actor Amit Mistry has passed away after suffering a major cardiac arrest. He was 47. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Mistry – Popular Gujarati & Hindi film Actor – passed away

**679.** Indian Nuclear Scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam, who played noteworthy role in 1998 nuclear tests at Pokhran, has passed away. He was awarded with the Padma Bhushan in 1999 in Science & Engineering. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Krishnamurthy Santhanam – Indian Nuclear Scientist – passed away (Padma Bhushan in 1999 in Sci. & Engineering)

**680.** Classical singer Rajan Mishra has passed away due to Covid-19 related complications. He was 70. He was the winner of Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi award and the Gandharva National award. He was associated with ‘Benaras Gharana’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajan Mishra – Classical Singer – passed away (‘Benaras Gharana’)
- He was winner of = Padma Bhushan + Sangeet Natak Akademi Award + Gandharva National Award

**681.** On April 19, Google has celebrated the 151<sup>st</sup> birthday of a Russian surgeon, professor, poet and author Dr. Vera Gedroits. Dr. Gedroits is credited as the country’s first female military surgeon and one of the world’s first female professors of surgery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- April 19 – 151<sup>st</sup> birthday of Dr. Vera Gedroits (a Russian surgeon, professor, poet & author)
- She was Russia’s first female military surgeon
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin





**682.** On April 24, L. Sabaretnam (80), Director & Chairman of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited has died of heart failure. He was also the former Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- L. Sabaretnam – Director & Chairman of ‘Chennai Super Kings’ Cricket Ltd – passed away

**683.** On April 19, Former Bihar Education Minister and Janata Dal (United) MLA Mewalal Chaudhry has passed away. He was the sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Bihar's Tarapur constituency. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mewalal Chaudhry – Former Bihar Education Minister & Janata Dal (United) MLA – passed away
- His constituency – Tarapur, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**684.** On April 26, John Konrads, who set 26 individual freestyle swimming world records and won an Olympic Gold medal in 1960, has passed away recently. He was 78. At the age of 14, Konrads was a reserve for Australia's Olympic swim team at the 1956 Melbourne Games. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- John Konrads (Australia) – a Swimmer – passed away (Olympic Gold medal in 1960)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

**685.** On April 25, Famous Hindi writer Manzoor Ahtesham has passed away. Manzoor Ahtesham was a Hindi writer from Bhopal, who raised important questions about the identity of the increasingly alienated Muslim minority. Manzoor Ahtesham's first published short story in 1973 was “Ramzaan Mein Maut” (Death in Ramzaan). He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manzoor Ahtesham – a Hindi writer – passed away (Padma Shri in 2003)
- His first published short story in 1973 – “Ramzaan Mein Maut”

**686.** On April 26, A 1977-batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, Former Sahasthra Seema Bal Chief Arun Chaudhary has passed away. He was 66. He also served for nearly two decades in the Intelligence Bureau (IB). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arun Chaudhary (Bihar) – Former Chief of SSB – passed away
- HQs of SSB – New Delhi | Director General – Kumar Rajesh Chandra



**687.** On April 25, Supreme Court judge Justice ‘Mohan M. Shantanagoudar’ has passed away. He was 62. He was born in 1958 and enrolled as an advocate in 1980 and was the 9<sup>th</sup> seniormost judge of the Supreme Court. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mohan M. Shantanagoudar – 9<sup>th</sup> seniormost judge of the Supreme Court – passed away

**688.** Noted Odia and English writer ‘Manoj Das’ has passed away at the age of 87 in Puducherry. He was conferred with the ‘Padma Bhushan’ award in 2020 for his contribution in the field of Literature and Education. He was earlier conferred the ‘Padma Shri’ in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manoj Das – an Odia & English writer – passed away
- ‘Padma Bhushan’ in 2020 – for Literature & Education | ‘Padma Shri’ in 2001

**689.** On April 26, Famous poet & Padma Shri award winner Dadudan Gadhavi has passed away. He was also honoured with Padma Shri Award for his rich contribution to the field of Art & Literature. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dadudan Gadhavi ([Gujarat](#)) – Famous Gujarati poet – passed away
- ‘Padma Shri Award’ in 2021 in the field of ‘Art & Literature’



**690.** On April 22, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced to support 8 joint research projects of the Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi. The ISRO will support the projects under its ‘RESPOND’ programme with varying duration of 1-3 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISRO – to support 8 joint research projects of Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi – under ‘RESPOND’ programme
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

**691.** Kosovar Biologist Halil Ibrahim has discovered a new insect species named “Potamophylax Coronavirus” in Kosovo’s western Bjeshket e Nemuna (Accursed Mountains) National Park. He collected the species as an associate professor of the Natural Sciences Faculty at Pristina University. It is considerably smaller, and lives in a different habitat, in open, high-altitude zones, some 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) above sea level. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Halil Ibrahim ([Kosovo](#)) – discovered a new insect species named “Potamophylax Coronavirus”
- It was discovered in – Accursed Mountains National Park ([Kosovo](#))



**692.** On April 23, IIT Kharagpur and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) have signed an MoU to set up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development at the Institute. The Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators-India (ASHA-India) initiative under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) is one of its kind innovations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Kharagpur + MoHUA = an MoU to set up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development at the Institute

**693.** On April 23, The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT-Kanpur have tied-up to provide a gateway of opportunities to tech-based start-ups to usher a circular economy and an entrepreneurial ecosystem. To galvanise their efforts towards promoting indigenous innovation, SICCI-SIIC Launchpad Competition “SICCI-SIIC INNOVATION LAUNCHPAD” held a start-up pitch competition on a virtual platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SICCI + SIIC (IIT Kanpur) = tied-up to provide a gateway of opportunities to tech-based start-ups

**694.** A mission of the NASA called “Spatial Heterodyne Interferometric Emission Line Dynamics Spectrometer” (SHIELDS) has lifted off from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on April 19. SHIELDS will examine light from hydrogen atoms that originated in interstellar space. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA’s “SHIELDS mission” lifted off from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

**695.** On April 26, Scientists have discovered the smallest-known black hole in the Milky Way galaxy and the closest to our solar system, named “Unicorn”. It is located about 1,500 light years from Earth. A luminous star called a ‘red giant’ orbits with the black hole in a so-called binary star system named “V723 Mon”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scientists discovered the smallest-known black hole in the Milky Way galaxy named “Unicorn”
- It is 1,500 light years away from Earth
- A luminous star orbits with the black hole named “V723 Mon”

**696.** On April 20, The US has launched “NROL-82” spy satellite into space from California. The satellite lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy rocket. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – launched “NROL-82” spy satellite into space from California
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris



**697.** On April 25, Bharti-backed OneWeb has launched 36 new satellites from 'Vostochny Cosmodrome' in Russia for its Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation. It was launched by Arianespace Soyuz Rocket. This is OneWeb's second launch in a five-launch program that will enable it to deliver connectivity solutions to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude by the middle of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- OneWeb (backed by Bharti Airtel) – launched 36 new satellites from 'Vostochny Cosmodrome' in Russia
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

**698.** On April 27, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed Single Crystal Blades that are used in helicopter engines and it has supplied 60 of them to the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for the company's indigenous helicopter development program. These blades are manufactured out of Nickel-based superalloys that are capable of withstanding high temperature. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – developed Single Crystal Blades used in Helicopter Engines (manufactured by - Nickel-based superalloys)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**699.** On April 26, Microsoft and UK's Met Office have teamed up to build the world's most powerful supercomputer to forecast weather and climate-change. It is likely to be operational in 2022. Japan's Fujitsu Laboratories used the world's most powerful supercomputer, 'Fugaku' to develop an AI model to predict tsunami flooding. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Microsoft + Met Office (UK) = teamed up to build the World's most Powerful Supercomputer to forecast weather
- 'Fugaku' one of the world's most powerful supercomputer – used by Japan's Fujitsu Laboratories
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

**700.** On April 27, A community service centre called "Aditya-L1 Support Cell" has been set up at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) transit campus in Haldwani, Uttarakhand to bring all data on board India's first dedicated solar space mission to a single web-based interface. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The ISRO establishes "Aditya-L1 Support Cell" – at ARIES transit campus in Haldwani, Uttarakhand
- HQs of ARIES – Nainital, Uttarakhand | Director – Dr. Dipankar Banerjee
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969





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