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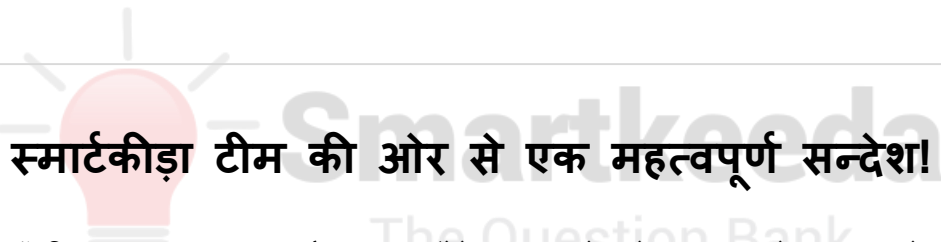
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of April 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	7
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	9
Defence Affairs.....	10
Schemes & Initiatives.....	10
Sports & Games.....	11
Important Days & Dates.....	12
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	13
Appointments & Resignations.....	14
Amount & Agreements.....	15
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	16
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	18
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	18
Books & Authors.....	19
Obituaries.....	19
Science & Technology.....	20
Ordinance, Bills and Acts.....	22



National & States Affairs

701. On April 28, According to the ICMR, the current positivity criteria is based on the Cycle Threshold (CT), which is a measure of how soon after an RT-PCR test, the SARS-CoV-2 is detected in a sample. All patients with a CT value of equal to or less than 35 may be considered positive. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to the ICMR: All patients with a CT value of equal to or less than 35 may be considered positive
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911

702. On April 28, A genome study is providing good news about the prospects of saving this critically endangered species of the 'Sumatran Rhinoceros' from extinction. The study was published in the journal 'Nature Communications'. The Sumatran Rhinoceros is the smallest of the world's five rhinoceros species, at around 700 to 800kg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumatran Rhino – 'critically endangered' species & the smallest of the world's five rhinoceros species
- The study was published in the journal 'Nature Communications'

703. On April 29, China has launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station. The launch is the first of 11 missions needed to construct and supply the station. A 3-person crew is to live there onboard the station which has an expected life span of about 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

704. On April 28, The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, under the Ministry of Finance, has recently issued the notification that the fund accumulation at the credit of subscribers of General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds will carry an interest rate of 7.1% for the period April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. The interest rate on the Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident Superannuation and Gratuity Funds has been kept unchanged at 7.1%. The interest income earned on the GPF amount is exempted under 'Section 80C' of the Income Tax Act, 1961. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- General Provident Fund (GPF) & other similar funds will carry an interest rate of 7.1% – from April 1 to June 30
- Interest rate on Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident Superannuation & Gratuity Funds – 7.1%
- Interest income earned on the GPF amount is exempted under 'Section 80C' of the "Income Tax Act, 1961"



705. Uttar Pradesh government has directed officials to take action under the National Security Act (NSA) and Gangster Act against anti-social elements involved in black marketing of medicine, spreading rumours and trying to spoil the atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – asked officials to take action under the “National Security Act (NSA)” and “Gangster Act”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

706. The SEBI has asked top 500 listed companies to work towards splitting the roles of Chairman and Managing Director before the April, 2022 deadline. The regulation will now be applicable to the top 500 listed entities by market capitalization, with effect from April 1, 2022. At the end of December 2020, only 53% of the top 500 listed entities had complied with this provision. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – asked top 500 listed companies to work towards splitting the roles of Chairman & MD – before April, 2022
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

707. Telangana has decided not to continue the project to explore uranium reserves in Amrabad Tiger Reserve. The State government had consistently fought against the exploration move to protect the interest of Chenchu tribals and wildlife conservation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – shelved the project of uranium mining in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (Telangana)
- Chenchu Tribe – Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka & Odisha
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

708. On April 29, The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched a “WhatsApp Helpline Number” for providing emergency medical assistance to pregnant women. The number is 9354954224. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW – launched a “WhatsApp Helpline Number” to provide emergency medical assistance to pregnant women
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma

709. On April 22, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is working to identify Traditional Organic Areas to transform them into Certified Organic Production Hubs. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has certified 14,491 Hectares of land located in UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as ‘Organic Area’ under the ‘Large Area Certification (LAC)’ scheme. LAC certification is provided under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). Sikkim is the World’s 1st fully organic state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoAFW – certified 14,491 Hectares of land (in A&N Islands) as ‘Organic Area’ under ‘LAC’ scheme
- LAC – Large Area Certification | LAC is provided under – Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- World’s 1st fully organic state – Sikkim



International Affairs

710. On April 27, The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) was formally launched by the Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia to create a free, transparent trade & investment environment and reduce the dependence on China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan + Australia = launched Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) – to reduce dependence on China
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

711. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a deal between India and the United Kingdom on information sharing and preventing Customs offences. The agreement will provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of India and the UK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the signing of a deal between India & UK on Information Sharing & preventing Customs Offences
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

712. On April 28, Arizona government in the US has signed an Anti-abortion Bill that bans the procedure if the woman is seeking it solely because a fetus has a genetic abnormality such as Down syndrome. Doctors who perform an abortion solely because the child has a survivable genetic issue can face felony charges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arizona (US) – signed an “Anti-abortion Bill” that bans the procedure if the woman is seeking it for genetic issues
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

713. The UK has become the first country to announce regulation of the use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways. According to the government, the use of ALKS would be restricted to motorways, at speeds under 60 km per hour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – became the 1st country to announce regulation of the use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



714. Apple has announced a first-of-its-kind carbon removal initiative called “Restore Fund” worth \$200 million. Apple targets to become carbon neutral across its entire value chain by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Apple – launched first-of-its-kind \$200 million carbon removal initiative called “Restore Fund”
- HQs of Apple – California, United States | CEO – Tim Cook

715. The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) has welcomed the US’ decision to join the Indian-Swedish climate initiative, Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) that help meet the Paris Agreement goals. Earlier, India and the US also announced a ‘US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership’ to create stronger bilateral cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – joined the India-Sweden climate initiative “LeadIT” (Leadership Group for Industry Transition)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

716. The World Health Organization (WHO) has validated Gambia for having eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem, making it the second country in WHO’s African Region to achieve this milestone. This is a great step towards the 2030 goals set by the recently launched 2021-2030 road map for neglected tropical disease. Trachoma is a neglected tropical eye disease. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – validated Gambia for having eliminated ‘Trachoma’ as a public health problem (2nd country in Africa)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- Gambia – Banjul – Gambian dalasi | President – Adama Barrow

717. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) has launched “Little Guru”, the Sanskrit learning app in Bangladesh. The Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote Sanskrit language. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IGCC – launched “Little Guru” the Sanskrit learning app – in Bangladesh
- Location of ICCR’s IGCC – Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

718. On April 27, Russian biotechnological company BioPalette has launched the mass production of “MultiSCREEN”, the world's first test system designed to simultaneously screen for the presence of diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BioPalette (Russia) – launched the mass production of “MultiSCREEN” the world's first test system
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

Banking & Economic Affairs

719. Shivalik Small Finance Bank Ltd has commenced operations as a Small Finance Bank with effect from April 26. The RBI had issued a licence to the bank under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on the business of small finance bank in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank – commenced operations as a Small Finance Bank with effect from April 26
- RBI had issued a licence to the bank – under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- HQs of SSFB – Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Suveer Kumar Gupta

720. On April 28, Indian Bank has signed an MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to receive seamless telecom services for the bank at a competitive rate. The bank is already using services of BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd for its Wide Area Network across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + BSNL = to receive seamless telecom services for the bank at a competitive rate
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chundurur
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar

721. On April 28, ICICI Bank has launched digital platform 'Merchant Stack' to target over 2 Cr retail merchants in the country. The platform enables merchants to meet their banking requirements amid the Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched digital platform 'Merchant Stack' to target over 2 Cr retail merchants in India
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

722. On April 28, The New India Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) has been reclassified as a “Public shareholder” of Axis Bank from being a “promoter” earlier. NIACL held 0.67% of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIACL – reclassified as a “Public shareholder” of Axis Bank from being a “promoter” earlier
- HQs of NIACL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Atul Sahai
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

723. On April 27, Decentro has partnered with ICICI Bank to offer customized business banking APIs to fintechs, startups, and corporates and e-commerce companies. Decentro is a full-stack API banking platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Decentro + ICICI Bank = partnership to offer customized business banking APIs
- HQs of Decentro – Bangalore, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Rohit Taneja
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

724. On April 23, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member. NGFS is launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

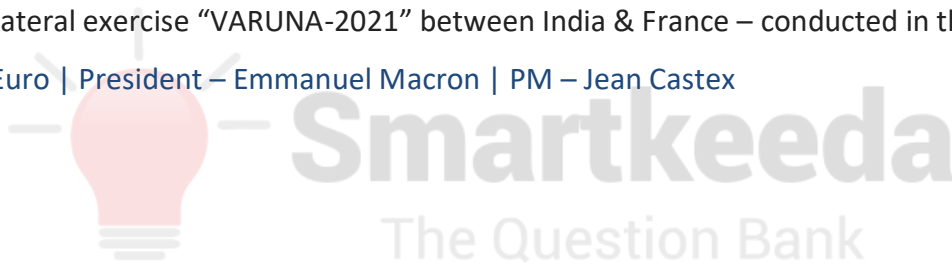
- RBI – joined the Central Banks & Supervisors NGFS as a member
- NGFS – Network for Greening the Financial System (launched in – 2017)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

725. The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise “VARUNA-2021” was conducted from 25-27 April 2021 in the Arabian Sea. Indian Navy’s guided missile frigate Tarkash will continue to exercise with the French Navy’s Carrier Strike Group (CSG) from 28th April to 1st May 2021 participating in advanced surface, anti-submarine and air-defence operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th edition of bilateral exercise “VARUNA-2021” between India & France – conducted in the Arabian Sea
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



Schemes & Initiatives

726. On April 28, The Haryana cabinet has approved “HARIHAR” scheme/policy to provide jobs on compassionate grounds and economically weaker section (EWS) status to children either abandoned or surrendered and turned 18-year-old while living in child-care institutions across state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – approved “HARIHAR” scheme/policy to abandoned & surrendered children
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

727. On April 29, The Punjab cabinet has approved an increase in financial assistance under the ‘Ashirwad’ Scheme, earlier known as Shagun Scheme, from ₹21,000 to ₹51,000 per beneficiary for the marriage of women belonging to low-income families. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab cabinet – approved an increase in financial assistance from ₹21,000 to ₹51,000 – under ‘Ashirwad’ Scheme
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore



728. The Labour Ministry has implemented a decision of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Central Board of Trustees (CBT) to hike the maximum sum assured payable under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 to Rs 7 lakh from the existing Rs 6 lakh. The CBT had also decided to continue payment of minimum sum assured of Rs 2.5 lakh under the scheme beyond February 14, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Ministry hiked maximum sum assured payable under EDLI scheme – to Rs 7 lakh
- The CBT will continue payment of minimum sum assured of Rs 2.5 lakh – beyond Feb 14, 2020
- HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Sunil Barthwal | Established in – 1952

729. Karnal district administration in Haryana has started a unique “Oxygen on Wheels” initiative to ensure incessant supply of Medical Oxygen to both Government & Private Hospitals. Under this initiative a carrier vehicle called as “Mobile Oxygen Bank” loaded with 100 Oxygen Cylinders reaches out to any district hospital which requisitions its urgent supply. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnal ([Haryana](#)) – started a unique “Oxygen on Wheels” initiative by using “Mobile Oxygen Bank”
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

Sports & Games

730. Indian archery's star couple Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari have won the men and women individual recurve Gold medals in the Archery World Cup in Guatemala. India has claimed total 3 Gold medals and a bronze in the tournament's first stage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atanu Das & Deepika Kumari ([Archery](#)) – won men & women individual Gold medals in the “Archery World Cup”
- [Guatemala – Guatemala city – Guatemalan Quetzal | President – Alejandro Giammattei](#)

731. B. Savitha Shri has completed her third and final norm in the “Belgrade Spring Festival Chess Tournament” in Serbia to become a Woman International Master. The 14-year-old B. Savitha Shri belongs to Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B. Savitha Shri – completed her 3rd & final norm in the “Belgrade Spring Festival Chess Tournament” in Serbia
- B. Savitha Shri ([Tamil Nadu - Chess](#)) – became a Woman International Master

732. On April 25, Manchester City has clinched its 4th consecutive League Cup title called “EFL Cup” or “Carabao Cup Football title” after beating Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 at Wembley. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manchester City – clinched its 4th consecutive “EFL Cup” or “Carabao Cup Football title”
- [Wembley stadium – England, UK](#)

733. On April 29, In the wake of international travel restrictions to India, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), in consultation with Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC), has decided to conduct the upcoming 2021 edition of the “ASBC Asian Elite Men and Women Boxing Championships” in Dubai, UAE. The event will now be organised by BFI in association with UAE Boxing Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BFI + ASBC = decided to conduct “2021 ASBC Asian Elite Men & Women Boxing Championships” – in Dubai, UAE
- HQs of BFI – Gurugram, Haryana | President – Ajay Singh
- HQs of ASBC – Abu Dhabi, UAE

Important Days & Dates

734. “Anzac Day” was recently celebrated between New Zealand and Australia on April 25. ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day is the anniversary of the landing of troops from Australia and New Zealand on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, in World War I on April 25, 1915. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “Anzac Day” celebrated between New Zealand & Australia
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

735. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has been celebrating the “Play True Day” on April 9 since 2014. It is dedicated to clean sport and is aimed at raising awareness among athletes and other sporting figures about the importance of protecting it. This year’s theme is “What does Play True mean to you?”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 9 – Play True Day – celebrated by WADA (since 2014)
- Theme – “What does Play True mean to you?”

736. “International Dance Day” is annually on April 29 to encourage participation and education in dance. The official Dance Day ceremonies were launched in 1982. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 29 – “International Dance Day”

737. “Ayushman Bharat Diwas” is celebrated by India on April 30. The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of India based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database. The AB-PMJAY is also titled ‘National Health Protection Scheme’ & ‘ModiCare’. The day also aimed to benefit 50 Cr beneficiaries in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 30 – “Ayushman Bharat Diwas”
- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was launched – in 2018



738. “International Jazz Day” is celebrated on April 30 every year. This Day is intended to raise awareness of the virtues of jazz as an educational tool. Jazz is a style of music that began in the early 20th Century. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 30 – “International Jazz Day”

739. This year, Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on April 25. It takes place in March or April, as per the Gregorian calendar. The day is celebrated across the world by the Jain community in memory of the last spiritual teacher of Jainism. Bhagwan Mahavir was the 24th Jain Tirthankar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “Mahavir Jayanti” celebrated by the Jain community
- Bhagwan Mahavir – the 24th Jain Tirthankar

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

740. On April 28, Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs, Mrs. Riva Ganguly Das has co-chaired the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials’ Meeting with Permanent Secretary of Thailand H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi. The virtual Meeting saw the participation of Senior Officials from all ten ASEAN Member States and India. Singapore will serve as the next Coordinator of ASEAN for 3 years from 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Riva Ganguly Das (Secretary of MEA) – co-chaired the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials’ Meeting
- Singapore – to serve as the next Coordinator of ASEAN for 3 years from 2021
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10](#)

741. PM Narendra Modi has thanked President Vladimir Putin for Russia's help and support in India's fight against COVID-19 as the two leaders agreed to establish a “2+2 Ministerial Dialogue” between Foreign & Defence ministers to add further momentum to the bilateral strategic partnership. “Sputnik-V”, is the 3rd vaccine after Covishield & Covaxin that has been approved by the government for use in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Russia = agreed to establish a “2+2 Ministerial Dialogue” between Foreign & Defence ministers
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

742. On April 28, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has represented India at the “G-7 Digital & Technology Ministerial Meeting”. Theme of the meeting is “Building Back Better”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – represented India at the “G-7 Digital & Technology Ministerial Meeting”
- Theme – “Building Back Better”



Appointments & Resignations

743. On April 26, Amit Banerjee has been appointed as the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited. Currently, he is serving as Director (Rail & Metro Business) in the same organisation. He has replaced MV Rajasekhar who was given additional charge for this post after the superannuation of Deepak Kumar Hota in January. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Banerjee – appointed as the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Amit Banerjee

744. On April 28, Albert Pahimi Padacke has been named as Prime Minister of Chad. He was runner-up in the Sahel country's April 11 presidential election. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Albert Pahimi Padacke – named as Prime Minister of Chad
- Chad – N'Djamena – CFA franc | PM – Albert Pahimi Padacke

745. On April 29, Axis Bank has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as its Managing Director and CEO for 3 years with effect from January 1, 2022. Prior to joining Axis Bank, Chaudhry was MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amitabh Chaudhry – re-appointed as MD & CEO of Axis Bank – for 3 years
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

746. On April 29, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved designating Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan as the Finance Secretary. Somanathan, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, will take charge as the Finance Secretary, a position earlier held by Ajay Bhushan Pandey who superannuated in February. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- T V Somanathan (Expenditure Secretary) – appointed as Finance Secretary

747. Prominent Indian-American civil rights lawyer Vanita Gupta has been appointed by the US Senate as Associate Attorney General, making her the first person of colour to occupy the third highest position at the Department of Justice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vanita Gupta (Indian-American) – appointed as Associate Attorney General of the US (1st person of colour)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



748. April 29, Bajaj Auto has announced the appointment of Neeraj Bajaj as its new Chairman of the Board with effect from May 1, 2021. He has succeeded Rahul Bajaj with effect from 1st May 2021. Bajaj Auto has also announced Rahul Bajaj as its Chairman Emeritus for 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Bajaj – appointed as new Chairman of Bajaj Auto (by succeeding - Rahul Bajaj)
- Rahul Bajaj – appointed as Chairman Emeritus of Bajaj Auto
- HQs of Bajaj Auto – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajiv Bajaj | Chairman – Neeraj Bajaj

749. On April 28, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) based in New York, US. She is among the 52 members on the board and will serve for a term of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw – appointed to the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK)
- Location of MSK Cancer Center – New York, US

Amount & Agreements

750. On April 27, In line with Budget announcement, the government has infused Rs 200 Cr in state-owned India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFC) to improve its financial health. Following the capital infusion, the government holding in the financial institution has increased to 63.8% from earlier 61.02%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government infused Rs 200 Cr in India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFC) to improve its Financial Health
- HQs of IIFC – New Delhi | Chief General Manager – Rajeev Mukhija

751. On April 29, Norway has announced a contribution of 20 million Norwegian Kroners (\$2.4 million or Rs 18 Cr) towards Covid relief in India, to be channelled through the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Norway – announced a contribution of NK 20 million (\$2.4 million or Rs 18 Cr) towards Covid relief in India
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg

752. On April 29, International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of World Bank is planning to invest \$40 million in UpGrad, bringing down the promoters' holding in the firm to 75%. Upgrad was founded by Ronnie Screwvala, Phalgun Kompalli, Mayank Kumar and Ravijot Chugh in 2015. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IFC (World Bank) – plans to invest \$40 million in UpGrad (its total holding in UpGrad - 25%)
- HQs of IFC – Washington D.C., US | MD – Makhtar Diop | Established in – 1956
- HQs of Upgrad – Mumbai, MH | Co-founder & MD – Mayank Kumar

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

753. On April 23, According to the report of Bank of America (BofA), India needs over \$400 billion in capital investment to fight climate change. It could save over 100 GW of energy and 1.1 billion tonne of greenhouse gasses between 2015 and 2030. The government's push towards 'Blending Ethanol' up to 25% and move towards 'Green Hydrogen' are encouraging. The government has ramped up Ethanol Blending within Petrol ratio from 1.4% in 2014 to 5% in 2020, 10% by 2022 and to 25% by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to BofA: India needs over \$400 billion in capital investment to fight climate change
- BofA identified 2 new themes to fight Pollution: 'Blending Ethanol' up to 25% & 'Green Hydrogen'
- Ethanol Blending within Petrol ratio: 5% in 2020 | 10% by 2022 | 25% by 2025

754. On April 26, India has been ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes. It was the 1st Edition produced by Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG). Finland has topped the list followed by Switzerland & Singapore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) | Topped by – Finland
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

755. On April 22, Air pollution in India has caused losses of up to Rs 7 lakh Cr (\$95 billion) annually according to a new report released jointly by UK-based non-profit Clean Air Fund, management firm Dalberg Advisors and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This loss is equal to 3% of India's GDP in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Clean Air Fund (UK) + Dalberg Advisors (US) + CII = released a new report on Air Pollution
- Air pollution in India caused losses of up to – Rs 7 lakh Cr (\$95 billion) annually (3% of India's 2019 GDP)
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

756. On April 28, Two Indian firms, Reliance Industries' technology arm Jio Platforms and e-learning startup Byju's have figured in the Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 most influential companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jio Platforms + Byju's = figured in the Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 most influential companies
- HQs of Jio Platforms – Mumbai, MH | President – Anish Shah
- HQs of Byju's – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011

757. On April 28, Wipro has regained the position as India's third most-valued information technology (IT) company, surpassing HCL Technologies in terms of market capitalisation (market-cap). Wipro stood at number 12 in the overall m-cap ranking with an m-cap of Rs 2.65 trillion. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is at number one position in IT companies market-cap rank with a market-cap of Rs 11.47 trillion, followed by Infosys (Rs 5.72 trillion). Wipro also announced to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro – regained the position as India's 3rd most-valued IT company (12 in overall) | m-cap of – Rs 2.65 trillion
- 1st – TCS (Rs 11.47 trillion) | 2nd – Infosys (Rs 5.72 trillion)
- Wipro: To achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte

758. “The Global Forest Goals Report 2021” is prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN DESA). COVID-19 has increased the challenges for Countries to manage forests. UN Strategic Plan of 2017 for Forests targets to increase forest area by 3% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Global Forest Goals Report 2021” – prepared by the UNDESA
- UN Strategic Plan of 2017 for Forests targets to increase forest area by 3% by 2030
- HQs of UNDESA – New York, USA | Head – Liu Zhenmin

759. On April 30, More than 30% of new vehicle sales in India will be electric by 2030, according to the “Global EV Outlook” report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). By 2030 almost 60% of all 2/3-wheelers sold are electric, as are about 30% of LCVs and buses. There could be 145 million electric vehicles on the world’s roads by 2030. India outlays Rs 10,000 Cr for FAME II (Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme. The FAME Scheme was launched in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEA’s “Global EV Outlook” report: More than 30% of new vehicle sales in India will be electric by 2030
- There could be 145 million electric vehicles on the world’s roads by 2030
- India outlays Rs 10,000 Cr for FAME II | The FAME Scheme was launched – in 2015
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

760. According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India’s crude oil production fell by 5% to 30.5 million tonnes and Natural Gas output slumped by 8% to 28.67 billion cubic meters in the fiscal year to March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s Crude Oil production fell by 5% to 30.5 million tonnes in FY21
- Natural Gas output fell by 8% to 28.67 billion cubic meters in FY21
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)



Acquisitions & Mergers

761. On April 29, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Tata Digital's acquisition of 64.3% in stake in online grocer BigBasket. Tata Digital will now give exit to investors Alibaba, which holds around 29% stake in BigBasket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of 64.3% in stake in BigBasket – by Tata Digital
- HQs of BigBasket – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEOs – Hari Menon & VS Sudhakar
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

762. On April 28, The Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters. The Agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UK + N. Ireland = Agreement on Customs Cooperation & Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

763. On April 27, Assam Government has signed two MoUs with Bhutan and Nagaland for procurement of oxygen. A new oxygen plant is being set up in Bhutan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – signed 2 MoUs with Bhutan & Nagaland – for procurement of oxygen
- A new oxygen plant is being set up – in Bhutan
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

764. On April 29, TRIFED and The LINK Fund have signed an MoU for a project titled “Sustainable Livelihoods for Tribal Households in India” to work together towards Tribal Development and employment generation by providing support to tribals. The will work towards employment generation through technological intervention for efficiency in value addition for MFPs, produce and crafts diversification, skill training and enhancement of value additions in minor forest produce. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + The LINK Fund = an MoU for a project titled “Sustainable Livelihoods for Tribal Households in India”
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Launched in – 1987
- HQs of The LINK Fund – Geneva, Switzerland

Books & Authors

765. “Interpreting Politics: Situated Knowledge, India, and the Rudolph Legacy” is edited by John Echeverri-Gent and Kamal Sadiq and published by the Oxford University Press. The book includes analysis of trends in political mobilisation in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Interpreting Politics: Situated Knowledge, India & the Rudolph Legacy” – edited by John Echeverri-Gent & Kamal Sadiq
- Publisher – Oxford University Press



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Obituaries

766. On April 28, “Apollo 11” astronaut Michael Collins has died of cancer. He was 90. On January 9, 1969, NASA announced that Mr. Collins, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Aldrin would be on the crew of “Apollo 11”, the United States' first moon landing attempt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Michael Collins (US) – an Astronaut – passed away (“Apollo 11” mission)

767. On April 27, Eminent author of children’s literature ‘Leela Nambudiripad’ also known as ‘Sumangala’ has passed away. She was 88. She had won the Kendra Sahitya Academy Award for children’s literature in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Leela Nambudiripad’ also known as ‘Sumangala’ – an Author – passed away
- “Kendra Sahitya Academy Award” for children’s literature in 2013

768. Famous Indian Musician Composer Shravan Rathod of Nadeem-Shravan duo, has passed away due to COVID-19 related complications. Rathod was 66. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shravan Rathod (Maharashtra) – a Musician Composer – passed away (Nadeem-Shravan Musical duo)



769. On April 30, Veteran lawyer and former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee has passed away after contracting Covid-19. He was 91. Sorabjee, a Padma Vibhushan recipient, began his legal practice in 1953 in Bombay High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Soli Sorabjee – Veteran lawyer & former Attorney General – passed away (Padma Vibhushan)

770. On April 30, Tamil film director-cinematographer K. V. Anand has passed away in Chennai due to Covid-19 related complications. He was 54. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. V. Anand – Tamil film Director-Cinematographer – passed away

771. On April 30, Television journalist Rohit Sardana has passed away days after he tested positive for Covid-19. He was 41. He was an executive editor and TV news anchor with Aaj Tak of the India Today Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rohit Sardana – a Television Journalist – passed away (Anchor of Aaj Tak news channel)

772. On April 26, Former Managing Director of Maruti Suzuki and founder of Carnation Auto India, Jagdish Khattar has passed away due to a cardiac arrest. He was 78-years old. Khattar was with Maruti Udyog Limited from 1993 till his retirement in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jagdish Khattar – Former MD of Maruti Suzuki & founder of Carnation Auto India – passed away

Science & Technology

773. On April 27, A Chinese space mining start-up 'Origin Space' (based in Shenzhen) has launched into low Earth orbit a Robot Prototype called "NEO-01" that can scoop up debris left behind by other spacecraft with a big net. It will also peer into deep space to observe small celestial bodies. China has also launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Origin Space ([China](#)) – launched Robot Prototype called "NEO-01" that is capable of catching space debris with net
- China – also launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station
- [China](#) – [Beijing](#) – [Renminbi](#) | [President](#) – [Xi Jinping](#)

774. Two dung eating beetle species “*Bolboceras bopdevense*” & “*Bolboceras trimbakense*” have been newly discovered from Pune and Nashik in Maharashtra by the researchers from the Zoological Survey of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ZSI discovered two dung eating Beetle species – from Pune & Nashik in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – K Venkatraman

775. India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas, has added the 5th generation ‘Python-5’ Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its Air-to-Air weapons capability. The trials conducted on April 27 at DRDO, Goa were also aimed to validate enhanced capability of the already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO conducted maiden trial of ‘Python-5’ Air to Air missile – at Goa
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

776. On April 27, Researchers at Tufts University have developed robots from stem cells of frogs. These robots are named “Xenobots” and they can self-heal after damage, record memories and work together in groups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers at Tufts University developed robots named “Xenobots” from stem cells of frogs
- Location of Tufts University – Massachusetts, US

777. On April 29, Indian Scientists from ICAR-New Delhi have developed a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean. This newly developed variety called “MACS 1407” is suitable for cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states and its seeds will be made available to farmers for sowing during the ‘2022 Kharif season’. MACS 1407 require an average 43 days for 50 % flowering and take 104 days to mature from the date of sowing. Soyabean is a crop grown in the Kharif Season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Scientists (ICAR-New Delhi) – developed “MACS 1407” - a high-yielding & pest-resistant variety of ‘Soybean’
- It is suitable for cultivation in – Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & North-Eastern states

778. On April 30, IIT Bombay has converted existing Nitrogen plant into Oxygen generator. The oxygen generated by this plant at IIT-Bombay lab was tested and found to be 93-96% pure and at 3.5 atmospheric pressure. The pilot project was aimed at finding quick and easy solutions to the severe oxygen shortage in medical facilities across the country. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IIT Bombay – converted existing Nitrogen plant into Oxygen generator
- Quality of Oxygen generated by this plant at IIT Bombay: 93-96% pure & at 3.5 atmospheric pressure

779. On April 27, Twitter has decided to add a new a 'Fact Box' feature on users' timelines to help promote the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination effort. The new feature will provide people around the world with the latest vaccine information in their particular country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Twitter – to add a 'Fact Box' feature on users' timelines to help promote the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination effort
- HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, USA | CEO – Jack Dorsey | Founded in – 2006

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

780. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, has come into effect from April 27. According to this Act, the 'Government' in Delhi is the 'Lieutenant Governor'. Lieutenant Governor should be informed for all Executive Actions in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to GNCTD Act: "Lieutenant Governor" should be informed for all Executive Actions in Delhi
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev





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