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National & States Affairs

601. On April 29, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the country's first-of-its-kind gene bank programme in the State. The programme is aimed at conserving native biodiversity to ensure that natural resources are passed on to the next generation. Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission, under the State government, ran the project from 2014-2019 in different parts of the State. The project will be carried out by a three-tier panel with the Chief Secretary as head of the State-level committee. A budget of ₹172.39 Cr for 5 years has been approved for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra Cabinet approved the country's first-of-its-kind 'Gene Bank Programme' in the State
- A budget of ₹172.39 Cr for 5 years has been approved for this purpose
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

602. Uttarakhand plans to create 1,00,000 'Ecopreneurs' by creating green jobs through ecotourism. The state aims to address the large-scale out-migration that is occurring due to the limited employment opportunities in the inaccessible, hilly landscape. Uttarakhand has 34,650 square km of forest, accounting for 64.8% of the state's total area. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand plans to create 1,00,000 'Ecopreneurs' by creating green jobs through ecotourism
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

603. In April 2022, Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted two Bills to limit the Governor's power to appoint vice-chancellors (V-Cs) to 13 State universities. The legislations seek to give effect to a promise made by Chief Minister MK Stalin in Assembly in January. The two Bills - The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022, and the Chennai University (Amendment) Act, 2022 - were adopted by a voice vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu Assembly – adopted 2 Bills to limit the Governor's power to appoint Vice-Chancellors to 13 State universities
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

604. On April 28, Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh launched 'Azadi se Antyodaya Tak' - a 90-day inter-ministerial campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The campaign aims to saturate 17 schemes of 9 Ministries in 75 selected districts across India. Selected districts are aligned with the birth places of 99 unsung heroes of Indian freedom movement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giriraj Singh – launched 'Azadi se Antyodaya Tak' - a 90-day inter-ministerial campaign
- [Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggan Singh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti](#)

605. On April 28, India became the 1st country in Asia Pacific to achieve feat as IndiGO used a new technology to land plane by using its 'ATR 72-600' aircraft. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) successfully conducted a light trial using an indigenous satellite based augmentation system (SBAS) called 'GAGAN' (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) at the Kishangarh airport in Ajmer, Rajasthan. Jointly developed by the AAI and the ISRO, GAGAN is the first system developed for India and the neighbouring countries in the equatorial region. A Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) allows aircraft guided approaches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – became the 1st country in Asia Pacific to use satellite-based landing system - ‘GAGAN’ System
- AAI conducted a light trial using an indigenous satellite based augmentation system ‘GAGAN’ at Kishanganh airport
- GAGAN – GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation | SBAS – Satellite Based Augmentation System
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjeev Kumar

606. In April 2022, the Government of India will be issuing a Rs 100 commemorative coin to mark the birth centenary of Jawaharlal Darda (fondly called Babuji), late freedom fighter and founder of the Lokmat Group of Newspapers (now Lokmat Media). A gazette notification to this effect was issued by the Economic Affairs Department of the Finance Ministry on April 26. The commemorative coin is likely to be issued on July 2, 2023, to coincide with the 100th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Darda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI announced to issue a Rs 100 commemorative coin to mark the birth centenary of ‘Jawaharlal Darda’ on July 2, 2023

607. On April 28, Commerce & Industry Ministry launched a pilot phase of “Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)” in five cities - Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore. The ONDC is an initiative of the government to promote an Open Platform for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services through electronic networks. The government has set up a 9-member Advisory Council to ascertain steps required to design and accelerate adoption of ONDC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C&I – launched a pilot phase of “Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)” in 5 cities
- Government also set up a 9-member Advisory Council to design & accelerate adoption of ONDC

608. On April 28, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, launched the “National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities” to strengthen the ongoing jan andolan for ‘Garbage Free Cities’. SBM-U 2.0 organized 2nd edition of peer learning webinar series, SwachhTalks, titled “Swachhaka Ki Jyot” to celebrate people’s participation over 7 years in SBM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBM-U 2.0 (MoHUA) – launched the “National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities”
- SBM-U 2.0 organized 2nd edition of peer learning webinar series, SwachhTalks titled “Swachhaka Ki Jyot”

609. On April 29, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is planning to formulate a Farmer Distress Index (FDI) to track, identify and support the real needy and distressed farmers. Depending on the level of distress, the government and the financial institutions can decide on an appropriate package of support instead of the current practice of doling out distress package to all the farmers across the board. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD – plans to formulate ‘Farmer Distress Index (FDI)’ to track, identify & support the needy & distressed farmers
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982

International Affairs

610. A German-funded consortium of carmakers and battery producer is planning to develop a 'Battery Passport' that traces the content and carbon footprint of batteries in Europe. The consortium of 11 partners has received 8.2 million euros (\$8.78 million) of government funding to develop a common classification and standards for gathering and disclosing data on the batteries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A consortium of carmakers & battery producer in Germany is planning to develop a 'Battery Passport' for Europe
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro](#) | [President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

611. In April 2022, Denmark suspended its widespread Covid-19 vaccination campaign after claiming that the epidemic was now under control. The country in February lifted all curbs related to the coronavirus pandemic. The country was in a 'good position' because of high vaccination rates and acceptable levels of hospital admissions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denmark – suspended its widespread Covid-19 vaccination campaign
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone](#) | [PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

612. China has recorded the first human infection with the H3N8 strain of bird flu. A four-year-old boy from central Henan province was found to have been infected with the variant after developing a fever and other symptoms. The H3N8 variant has previously been detected elsewhere in the world in horses, dogs, birds and seals but no human cases of H3N8 were reported. Last year China reported the first human case of H10N3. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – recorded the first human infection with the H3N8 strain of bird flu
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

613. On April 27, Russia announced to withdraw from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (WTO) just hours before the body's assembly voted to temporarily suspend Russia's membership over the invasion of Ukraine. The assembly resolution included a clause that said the suspension could be reversed if a change in the politics of the Russian Federation were noted. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – withdrew from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (WTO)
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

614. On April 28, a new 'Global Security Initiative' was put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping to counter the US Indo-Pacific strategy and the Quad Grouping. GSI calls for a 'common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable' security and building an Asian security model of mutual respect, openness and integration". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chinese President Xi Jinping – put forward a new 'Global Security Initiative'
- The initiative will counter the US Indo-Pacific strategy & the Quad Grouping
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

615. On April 28, the SEBI has reduced the time taken for the listing of REITs (real estate investment trusts) and InvITs (infrastructure investment trusts) to 6 working days from the present 12 days. The new rule opens on or after June 1, 2022. The move is aimed at making the existing process of issuance of such emerging investment vehicles simpler and cost-effective. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI reduced the time taken for the listing of REITs & InvITs to 6 working days from the present 12 days
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

616. On April 28, ICICI Bank unveiled India's first open-for-all digital ecosystem for MSMEs at a media conference in Mumbai. The new ecosystem comprises three pillars: enhanced banking services for existing customers, a bouquet of banking services to MSMEs who are customers of other banks and a whole range of value-added services for all. The most important in the list of these services is sanction of instant and paperless overdraft facility named 'InstaOD Plus' up to Rs 25 lakh. 'InstaOD Plus', the industry-first proposition, enables customers of any bank to avail of an overdraft instantly through a few clicks either on the new version of InstaBIZ or CIB (Corporate Internet Banking). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – unveiled India's first open-for-all digital ecosystem for MSMEs in Mumbai
- ICICI Bank – also unveiled the industry-first instant & paperless overdraft facility namely 'InstaOD Plus' (up to Rs 25 lakh)
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – "Hum Hain Na!" & "Khayal Apka"

617. On April 28, Fintech firm Spice Money partnered with Religare Broking to provide people in rural India access to platforms to invest in capital market. Spice Money's representatives will assist rural citizens to open a demat account and apply for Life Insurance Corp of India's initial public offer (IPO) and invest in other products in the future. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spice Money + Religare Broking = partnership to help open demat accounts in rural India
- HQs of Spice Money – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Co-Founder & CEO – Sanjeev Kumar
- HQs of Religare Broking Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Nitin Aggarwal

618. On April 28, Indian Bank launched its first digital product a Pre-Approved Personal Loan (PAPL) under Project "WAVE". The bank had launched the digital transformation initiative - World of Advance Virtual Experience (WAVE) in January 2022. The loan would carry an interest rate of 10% per annum with no foreclosure charges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank – launched its first digital product a Pre-Approved Personal Loan (PAPL) under the Project "WAVE"
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – "Your Own Bank"

619. On April 27, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) issued a detailed "Framework for FinTech Entity" for Banking, Capital Markets, Insurance and Funds Management in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs). As per the framework, there will be a dedicated Regulatory Sandbox for fintech products or solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA issued a "Framework for FinTech Entity" for Banking, Capital Markets, Insurance & Funds Management in IFSCs
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas



620. In April 2022, Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman attended the FATF Ministerial Meeting in Washington D.C., conducted along-side the “2022 Spring Meetings” of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She also attended the “G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) 2022” meeting, held in Washington D.C. under Indonesia’s Presidency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – attended the “FATF Ministerial Meeting” in Washington D.C., US
- Nirmala Sitharaman – attended the “2022 Spring Meetings” of World Bank & IMF
- Nirmala Sitharaman – attended the “G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting 2022”

Science & Technology

621. On April 28, the ISRO finalised the launch of the first uncrewed mission or G1, planned for 2023, which will propel the orbital module into a 170×408-km orbit. The G1 mission will be followed by G2, the second uncrewed mission, both of which are precursors to the eventual human/crewed mission or H1 as named by the ISRO. Just as H1, the G1 too will be launched by a human-rated GSLV-Mk3 or the HRLV (Human-Rated Launch Vehicle). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO finalised the launch of the first Uncrewed Mission or G1 in 2023 (to be launched by GSLV-Mk3 or HRLV)
- G1 mission is precursor to the eventual human/crewed mission or H1

622. On April 28, an anti-ship version of the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was successfully test-fired jointly by the Indian Navy and the Andaman and Nicobar Command. The Andaman and Nicobar Command is the only tri-services command of the Indian armed forces. BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The range of the advanced version of the missile is learnt to have been extended to around 350 km from the original 290 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Andaman & Nicobar Command = jointly test-fired anti-ship version of BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile
- Andaman & Nicobar Command – the only tri-services command of the Indian Armed Forces
- BrahMos missiles – developed by BrahMos Aerospace - a JV between DRDO (India) & Mashinostroyeniya (Russia)
- Extended range of the BrahMos missiles – 350 km | Speed – 2.8 Mach
- HQs of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd – New Delhi | DG – Atul Dinkar Rane

623. In April 2022, the NASA released an ‘Equity Action Plan’ to make space more accessible. NASA’s equity action plan is a response to the U.S. government’s 2021 executive order aimed at advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities. Under this plan, NASA plans to identify and eliminate systemic barriers and ensure representation. The space equity action plan lists four focus areas for underserved communities. By the fiscal year 2029, NASA aims to increase the number of outreach events for underserved communities by 50%. NASA will make its 50 most-requested environmental data sets of last year available on the internet, and the full transfer of NASA Earth science data to the cloud will be complete by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – released an ‘Equity Action Plan’ to make space more accessible
- NASA – to increase the number of outreach events for underserved communities by 50% by the fiscal year 2029
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958



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Appointments & Resignations

624. On April 29, Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju took over as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff. He was commissioned in the Jat Regiment on December 15, 1984. He commanded his Battalion during 'Operation Parakram' in the Western Theatre and in Jammu & Kashmir. B. S. Raju succeeded Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lt. Gen. B. S. Raju – took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Army (succeeding - Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

625. NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) Ltd bagged the top spot in four categories of the "Public Relations Awards 2022" presented by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI). The awards were for its corporate website, annual report, layout and design of newsletter and CSR corporate video. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMDC Ltd – bagged the top spot in 4 categories of the "Public Relations Awards 2022" presented by the PRSI
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

626. On April 28, the 9.02 km long Atal Tunnel, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), received the Indian Building Congress (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award in New Delhi. The tunnel is located in Rohtang, Himachal Pradesh. The strategic tunnel was named the 'Best Projects for Excellence in the Built Environment in 2021' by the IBC Jury. This tunnel is officially certified by the World Book of Records as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel over 10,000 Feet'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atal Tunnel – received 'Best Projects for Excellence in the Built Environment in 2021' award by IBC
- Category – 'Best Infrastructure Project' award
- Atal Tunnel: Located in – Rohtang, Himachal Pradesh | Length – 9.02 km | Built by – BRO

627. On April 27, Bhagwanth Khuba, Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers presented the "India Pharma & India Medical Devices Awards 2022" during the 7th edition of the "International Conference on Pharma & Medical Devices Sector 2022". "India Pharma Vision 2047" was the central theme of the Conference. Under the 'Leaders Category Awards', Cipla Limited won the 'India Pharma Leader of the Year' award and Poly Medicure Limited won the 'India Medical Devices Leader of the Year' award. Under the 'Company of the Year Category Awards', Micro Labs Limited won 'India Pharma (Formulation) Company of the Year' award and Trivitron Healthcare won 'India Medical Devices Company of the Year' award. Moreover, the other awards were also presented as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagwanth Khuba (Ministry of C&F) – presented the “India Pharma & India Medical Devices Awards 2022”
- Central theme of the Conference – “India Pharma Vision 2047”
- Under the ‘Leaders Category Awards’:
 - ‘India Pharma Leader of the Year’ award – Cipla Limited
 - ‘India Medical Devices Leader of the Year’ award – Poly Medicure Limited
- Under the ‘Company of the Year Category Awards’:
 - ‘India Pharma (Formulation) Company of the Year’ award – Micro Labs Limited
 - ‘India Medical Devices Company of the Year’ award – Trivitron Healthcare
- Under the ‘MSME Category Awards’:
 - ‘India Medical Device MSME of the Year’ award – Nice Neotech Medical Systems Private Limited
- Under the ‘Start-up Category Awards’:
 - ‘India Medical Device Start-up of the Year’ award – Vanguard Diagnostics (P) Limited
- Under the ‘Innovation Category Awards’:
 - ‘India Medical Device Innovative of the Year’ award – Meril Life Sciences Private Limited
 - ‘India Pharma Innovation of the Year’ award – Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited
- Under the ‘CSR Category Awards’:
 - ‘India Pharma CSR Company of the Year’ award – Zydus Lifesciences Limited

628. On April 29, Noted snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist Charudutt Mishra won the prestigious “Whitley Gold Award 2022”. Mishra was given the award for his work in 12 snow leopard range countries. Princess Anne presented the award to Mishra at London’s Royal Geographic Society. This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) Award. He got the first in 2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Charudutt Mishra ([Snow leopard conservationist](#)) – won the “Whitley Gold Award 2022” – from WFN (UK)

Schemes & Initiatives

629. On April 28, the MSME Minister Narayan Tatu Rane launched the revamped Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme christened as “MSME Sustainable ZED Certification Scheme” for Udyam-registered MSMEs. The number of parameters for the certification was categorised into three stages - bronze, silver, and gold. The erstwhile ZED scheme was launched in October 2016 by PM Narendra Modi. Under the ZED certification scheme, Micro Enterprises will get 80% subsidies, Small Enterprises will get 60% and Medium Enterprises will get 50% subsidies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narayan Tatu Rane – launched revamped “MSME Sustainable ZED Certification Scheme” for Udyam-registered MSMEs
- The ZED scheme was initially launched in 2016
- [Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane](#) | [Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma](#)

630. On April 25, “Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA 2.0)” completed four years. UBA 2.0 was launched with the vision of transformational change in rural development processes. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship programme of the Education Ministry which aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with set of atleast five villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base. Currently 748 Institutions are participating under the scheme. In the phase -2 of the scheme 605 institutions have been selected. Out of these 313 are Technical Institutions and 292 are Non-Technical Institutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Education Ministry’s flagship programme “Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA 2.0)” completed 4 years
- [Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan](#) | [Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar](#)

Important Days & Dates

631. International Dance Day is celebrated on April 29 every year all over the world. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet. The day celebrated for the first time in 1982. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 29 – International Dance Day (since 1982) | Birth anniversary of – Jean-Georges Noverre

632. International Jazz Day is celebrated every year around the world on 30 April to promote Jazz and raise awareness about its significance. In 2022, the theme is “A Call for Global Peace and Unity”. Jazz is a style of music that began in the early 20th Century. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 30 – International Jazz Day
- 2022’s Theme – “A Call for Global Peace & Unity”

Books & Authors

633. A book titled “Leaders, Politicians and Citizens Fifty figures who influenced India’s politics” is authored by Rasheed Kidwai and published by Hatchette Pages. The book compiles stories of 50 personalities who influenced India’s political landscape. The foreword of the book is written by Shashi Tharoor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Leaders, Politicians and Citizens Fifty figures who influenced India’s politics” book – authored by Rasheed Kidwai
- Publisher – Hatchette Pages

634. On April 29, Governor of Andhra Pradesh Biswabhusan Harichandan released the book titled “Paramardham” written in Telugu by Sri KRBHN Chakravarthi, Secretary, State Election Commission at a programme held in Raj Bhavan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Biswabhusan Harichandan released a Telugu book titled “Paramardham” – authored by KRBHN Chakravarthi
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati](#) | [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

Obituaries

635. Eminent structural biologist Mamannamana Vijayan, DAE Homi Bhabha Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), passed away in Bengaluru. Prof. Vijayan, who was instrumental in the development of 'macromolecular crystallography' in India, was 80. Prof. Vijayan was presented the first 'Kairali Global Lifetime Achievement Prize' instituted by the state government in 2019. He also received 'Padma Shri' in 2004 for Science & Engineering and 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize' for Science & Technology in 1985. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Vijayan – a structural Biologist – passed away
- He played a major role in the development of 'macromolecular crystallography' in India
- Awards: Kairali Global Lifetime Achievement Prize (2019), Padma Shri (2004), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1985)

636. On April 27, Former Indian women's hockey team captain Elvera Britto passed away due to old age related problems. She was 81. Elvera, the eldest of the three famous Britto sisters (others are Rita and Mae), ruled the domestic circuit from 1960 to 1967, guiding Karnataka to seven national titles. In 1965, Elvera became only the second woman hockey player to be conferred with the 'Arjuna Award' after Anne Lumsden (1961). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Elvera Britto – Former Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain – passed away ('Arjuna Award' in 1965)

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

637. On April 25, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th edition of the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship multilateral foreign policy and geo-economics conference in New Delhi. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the dialogue, which was held over 3 days from April 25 to April 27, witnessed the participation of European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen as the chief guest. The Raisina Dialogue 2022 was based on the theme "Terranova- Impassioned, Impatient, Imperilled". The Raisina Dialogue was started in 2016. The conference was organised by MEA in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). A book titled "The First Responders: Women Who Led India Through The Pandemic" was launched at the Raisina Dialogue 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi inaugurated the 7th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi | Chief Guest – Ursula Von Der Leyen
- Theme of the dialogue – "Terranova- Impassioned, Impatient, Imperilled" | Organised by = MEA + ORF
- Raisina Dialogue was started in – 2016

638. On April 27, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane inaugurated the Ministry's mega event - "Enterprise India" under the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. "Enterprise India" is a series of commemorative entrepreneurship development events and activities being organised from April 27 to May 27 to promote entrepreneurship culture and create awareness about the schemes and initiatives of Ministry of MSME across India. The event is aimed at 'Jan Bhagidari'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narayan Rane inaugurated "Enterprise India" - a mega event organised by the Ministry of MSME
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

639. On April 28, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 'National Good Governance Webinar Series'. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions is organizing the 'National Good Governance Webinar Series' over the year from April, 2022 to March, 2023. One Webinar on an identified sector/theme will be held every month. The 13 webinars would be on different themes under the good governance initiatives. The first webinar in the series commenced on 28th April, 2022 on the theme "Improving Service Delivery" under which two awarded initiatives were presented namely "SAKALA" (to the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Government of Karnataka) and "e-Seva" (to the Government of Andhra Pradesh). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – inaugurated the 'National Good Governance Webinar Series'
- DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions – organizes this webinar series from April 2022-March 2023
- First webinar in the series was commenced on the theme – "Improving Service Delivery"

640. The 12th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation will take place from June 12-15 at WTO headquarters in Geneva. WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala will chair the conference. The Ministerial Conference (MC) is the highest decision making body of the 164-member Geneva-based multilateral body. Usually, MC happens every two years bringing all members of the WTO together, all of which are countries or customs unions. The meet was originally scheduled to take place from November 30 to December 3 2021, but was postponed in view of the outbreak of Omicron variant. The last meet was held at Buenos Aires during December 10-13, 2017. India is member of WTO since 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 12th ministerial conference of the WTO – to take place from June 12-15 at Geneva, Switzerland
- The conference will be chaired by – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (DG of WTO)
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Members – 164

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

641. Global coal-plant capacity under development declined by 13% in 2021 from 525 GW to 457 GW, according to a report by the Global Energy Monitor, which conducts an annual survey of coal power capacity under development or deployment. China leads in coal power expansion, with about 25,000 MW in new coal plants, followed by India with around 6,100 MW. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Global Energy Monitor report: Global coal-plant capacity declined by 13% in 2021 from 525 GW to 457 GW
- HQs of Global Energy Monitor – San Francisco, US

642. Globally, the investors realized total crypto gains of \$162.7 billion in 2021, across all cryptocurrencies, compared to just \$32.5 billion in 2020, according to the data released by crypto analytics firm Chainalysis. The US led the race with estimated realized cryptocurrency gains of \$47 billion, followed by the UK at \$8.16 billion & Germany at \$5.82 billion. While India ranked 21st with \$1.85 billion realized cryptocurrency gains. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chainalysis: Investors realized total crypto gains of \$162.7 billion in 2021 (compared to \$32.5 billion in 2020)
- 1st – US (\$47 billion), 2nd – UK (\$8.16 billion), 3rd – Germany (\$5.82 billion) | India – 21st (\$1.85 billion)

643. According to a report by payment solutions provider ACI Worldwide, data analytics firm GlobalData, and the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), India made 48.6 billion real-time payments through 2021. With this, India accounted for the highest volume of real-time payments among businesses around the world, with over 40% of all such payments made through 2021 originating in the country. India's real-time payments are over 2.6 times higher than China, which is at the second place with 18.5 billion real-time transactions. Finally, the report also added that real-time payments added \$16.4 billion to India's economic output, or 0.56% of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), in 2021. By 2026, this contribution is tipped to rise to \$45.9 billion or 1.12% of the nation's GDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to a report by ACI Worldwide, GlobalData & CEBR:
 - India made 48.6 billion real-time payments through 2021
 - With this, India accounted for the highest volume of real-time payments among businesses around the world
- Real-time payments added \$16.4 billion to India's economic output (0.56% of the nation's GDP)

644. As per the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the third quarter (Oct-Dec 2021) of FY 2021-22, India's formal sector employment jumped by 0.4 million (4 lakh) with the total number of workers employed across 9 sectors at 31.45 million (3.145 Cr) compared to 31 million in July-September quarter and 30.8 million in the April-June quarter of 2021. Manufacturing sector is the largest employer which employed 12.3 million (39% of the total workforce), followed by 0.69 million in the Education sector, 0.34 million in IT/BPOs and 0.32 million in the health sector. The QES was released by Labour Bureau, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the 3rd quarter (Oct-Dec 2021) of FY 2021-22
- The survey is prepared by – Labour Bureau
- Total number of workers employed across 9 sectors – 31.45 million (3.145 Cr)
- Manufacturing sector is the largest employer which employed 12.3 million | Followed by – Education sector
- [Ministry of Labour & Employment: Bhupender Yadav](#) | [Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment: Rameswar Teli](#)

Acquisitions & Mergers

645. On April 29, the Government of India has approved selling of its 51% stake in helicopter services provider Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL) along with transfer of management control for Rs 211.14 Cr to Star9 Mobility Private Ltd. PHL was a 51:49 joint venture of the government and ONGC. The approval was received from the Alternative Mechanism, empowered by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The Alternative Mechanism comprises Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI approved selling of its 51% stake in Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL) – to Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd for Rs 211.14 Cr
- PHL was a 51:49 JV of GoI & ONGC
- [HQs of Pawan Hans Ltd – Noida, Uttar Pradesh](#) | [Chairman & MD – Sanjeev Razdan](#)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

646. On April 28, the Ministry of Railways signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) to establish a collaborative working partnership. The partnership entails coordination and resource sharing with respect to provision of telecommunication facilities in the delivery and implementation of C-DoT's Telecom Solutions and services in Railways. The MoU was signed in the presence of Rajkumar Upadhyay, Executive Director of C-DOT and Aruna Singh, Additional Member/Telecom/Railway Board. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Railways + C-DoT = an MoU to establish a collaborative working partnership
- HQs of C-DoT – New Delhi | Executive Director – Rajkumar Upadhyay
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

647. On April 28, IIM Kozhikode and African Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) signed an MoU to promote and collaborate in research, consultancy, technical and knowledge support in promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development practices in the 33 members of AARDO. Both IIM-K and AARDO will endeavour to organise international, regional and on-the-spot or in-country training programmes, workshops, seminars to strengthen the institutional capacity of the member countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIM Kozhikode + AARDO = an MoU to promote Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development in 33 countries
- HQs of AARDO – New Delhi | Secretary General – Manoj Nardeosingh | Members – 33 countries

648. On April 28, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) signed an MoU with France-based GE Power Conversion for the development of Integrated Electric Propulsion Systems for the Indian Navy. The signing of an MoU provided a boost to the indigenous capability in the field of advanced technology for Integrated Full Electric Propulsion System. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL + GE Power Conversion = an MoU for the development of Integrated Electric Propulsion Systems for Indian Navy
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal

649. On April 26, a proposal was discussed between India and Maldives to set up a transmission interconnection for transfer of renewable power between the two countries. Two MoUs on energy cooperation and on transmission interconnection under 'One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)' were proposed during the meeting. The proposal was discussed during the meeting between Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh and Maldives' Environment, Climate Change and Technology Minister Aminath Shauna. The meeting was held in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Maldives = to set up a 'Transmission Interconnection for transfer of Renewable Power' under OSOWOG
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

650. On April 25, Flipkart signed an MoU with the West Bengal government to train and support local artisans, weavers and handicraft makers to leverage its e-commerce platform to scale up their businesses nationally. This partnership will enhance development of artisans, weavers, small businesses and MSMEs by providing access to opportunities that e-commerce enables. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + West Bengal = an MoU to train & support local artisans, weavers & handicraft makers
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar





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