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National & States Affairs

1. SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch launched an ideathon “Manthan” to promote innovation. Manthan is a six-week long ideathon being organised by SEBI in association with BSE, NSE, NSDL, CDSL, KFinTech, CAMS, LinkInTime and MCX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhabi Puri Buch (SEBI Chairperson) – launched an ideathon “Manthan” to promote innovation
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

2. Leh Administration signed a tripartite agreement to develop Hanley as ‘Dark Sky Sanctuary’ and Leh Hill Council, Wildlife and Tourism departments will jointly develop the area for Astro Tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Leh Administration – signed a tripartite agreement to develop Hanley area as ‘Dark Sky Sanctuary’
- Leh Hill Council + Wildlife + Tourism departments = will jointly develop Hanley area for Astro Tourism
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

3. On April 1, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, extended the existing “Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20” (which was valid upto March 31, 2022) for another 6 months upto September 30, 2022. The policy provides guidelines for enhancing exports to push economic growth and create jobs and incentives under different schemes such as Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGFT extended the existing “Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20” upto Sep 30, 2022
- DGFT functions under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DGFT – New Delhi | Director General – Santosh Kumar Sarangi

4. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified that India has allowed genome-edited plants without the cumbersome GMO regulation at the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). Genome edited plants are different from genetically modified organisms (GMO) technology as the former allows for the generation of functional mutations in the recipient genome at specific targets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has allowed genome-edited plants without the cumbersome GMO regulation at the GEAC
- GEAC functions under – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

5. The Supreme Court (SC) abolished 10.5% reservation within the Most Backward Classes (MBC) community for Vanniyars in Tamil Nadu. The SC upheld the Madras High Court judgement striking down this law brought in Tamil Nadu in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SC abolished 10.5% reservation within the Most Backward Classes (MBC) community for Vanniyars in Tamil Nadu
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



6. Microsoft launched “Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub in India”, to empower early-stage startup founders in India with over \$3,00,000 worth of benefits and credits. It will give startups free access to the technology, tools, and resources they need to build and run their business. Microsoft also partnered with companies like OpenAI, that develops AI systems such as GPT-3 and Codex, to provide startups with exclusive benefits and discounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched “Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub in India” to empower early-stage startup founders in India
- Microsoft + OpenAI = to provide startups with exclusive benefits & discounts
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

7. Geological Survey of India (GSI) identified two geological heritage sites namely Siwalik Fossil Park & Stromatolite bearing Dolomite/Limestone of Buxa Formation in Himachal Pradesh & Sikkim respectively. Ministry of Mines approached Ministry of Culture to explore the possibility of inclusion of Geological Heritage sites declared by GSI, under the purview of existing Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GSI identified two geological heritage sites:
 - Siwalik Fossil Park – in Himachal Pradesh
 - Stromatolite bearing Dolomite/Limestone of Buxa Formation – in Sikkim
- HQs of GSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – S. Raju

8. Madhya Pradesh is set to become the first state in India to impart medical education in Hindi medium. It will soon be followed in engineering education and other professional courses. The ‘CM Sanjeevani Clinic’ for urban areas with a housing population of 25,000 will also be launched soon in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – will become the first state to start the MBBS course in Hindi
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

9. On April 2, Amazon India launched the “Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022”. Designed around the theme of ‘Make in India’, the initiative will provide participating startups from anywhere in the country a chance to showcase their business proposition and get a chance to win cumulative cash prizes up to Rs 65 lakhs and other rewards. Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship Challenge is open to startups across all industries, verticals and business models. Amazon announced to host the third edition of ‘Amazon Smbhav’ on May 18th and 19th 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon India – to launch 3rd edition of “Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022”
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

10. Punjab government decided to provide digital J-Forms to the farmers across the state from April 1, 2022 to ensure transparency. This move would provide real time access to system generated authentic digital J-Forms to farmers of the state, who could also download it from PMB website, in Arthia Login ID and DigiLocker. J-Form is the sale receipt of the farmer’s agricultural produce in mandis and was earlier issued manually by arthiyas. The digital J-Forms for paddy and wheat procured on MSP (minimum support price) would be made available 24X7. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – to provide digital J-Forms to the farmers across the state to ensure transparency
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



International Affairs

11. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Piyush Goyal inaugurated 'Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre' in Dubai and called upon the Gem & Jewellery Industry to triple their exports target from \$35 billion exports at present to \$100 billion worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – inaugurated 'Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre' in Dubai, UAE
- Piyush Goyal – asked the Gem & Jewellery Industry to triple their exports target to \$100 billion worldwide

12. US president Joe Biden made lynching a federal hate crime and signed the "Emmett Till Antilynching Act, 2022" into law. Lynching was a kind of racial terror used against African-Americans, especially in the segregated South. This act was named following the gruesome murder of a 14-year-old Black boy from Chicago by a group of White men in Mississippi in 1955.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US President Joe Biden – signed the "Emmett Till Antilynching Act, 2022" into law
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

13. The painting titled "The Battle of Pollilur" was auctioned in the UK for about Rs 6.28 Cr (£6,30,000). The painting showcases the erstwhile sultan of Mysore Haider Ali and his son, Tipu Sultan, riding into battle against the British troops of the East India Company. The nearly 32-foot long painting depicts the victory of the Mysore army in the Battle of Pollilur, which took place on 7 September, 1780, as part of the Second Anglo-Mysore War. The painting was brought to England by Colonel John William Freese, who was in Srirangapatnam after Tipu's defeat in 1799. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The painting titled "The Battle of Pollilur" was auctioned in the UK for about Rs 6.28 Cr (£6,30,000)
- The painting was brought to England by Colonel John William Freese in 1799
- "The Battle of Pollilur" – fought between Hyder Ali & British East India Company

14. On April 5, Ecuador, in South America, made history by becoming the first country to recognise the legal rights of individual wild animals. The landmark ruling by the Quinto court came when it was hearing a case related to Estrellita, a woolly monkey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ecuador – became the world's first country to recognise the legal rights of individual wild animals
- The decision came after hearing a case related to 'Estrellita', a woolly monkey
- Ecuador – Quito – US Dollar | President – Guillermo Lasso



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

15. On April 1, Union Bank of India (UBI) sold 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Ltd (IFLIC) to Bank of Baroda (BoB) for ₹766.29 Cr. IFLIC is a joint venture between BoB, UBI and Carmel Point Investments India Pvt Ltd. UBI held 30% stake in IFLIC by virtue of its acquisition of Andhra Bank. UBI also has 25.10% stake in Star Union Dai-ichi (SUD) Life Insurance Company Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI – sold 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance to BoB for ₹766.29 Cr
- IFLIC – a joint venture between BoB, UBI & Carmel Point Investments
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”

16. On April 1, HDFC Bank was adjudged the Best Performing Bank in Self Help Group (SHG) Linkage by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development. The award was presented by Giriraj Singh, Minister of Rural Development. Notably, HDFC Bank was the only Private Bank to be felicitated for remarkable work in SHGs by the NRLM. Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, the bank has offered advances over Rs 1,000 Cr, as of February 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – adjudged the Best Performing Bank in Self Help Group (SHG) Linkage by the NRLM
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

17. On April 1, Ergos Business Solutions developed a digital platform “GrainBank”. This is the first time in India’s history where farmers have direct access to a cutting-edge technology platform “GrainBank” for getting valuable information and income on their farm produce. Ergos launched “GrainBank Loyalty Cards for Farmers”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ergos Business Solutions – developed a digital platform “GrainBank” for farmers
- Ergos – launched “GrainBank Loyalty Cards for Farmers”
- HQs of Ergos Business Solutions – Bangalore, Karnataka

18. In view of improvement in the pandemic situation, the RBI decided to reduce the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and Union Territories to Rs 47,010 Cr from Rs 51,560 Cr. WMA are temporary advances given by the RBI to the government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments. These norms are effective from April 1, 2022 and are subject to review. The limit for WMA for the Government of India for the first half of the financial year 2022-23 has been set at Rs 1,50,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI decided to reduce the Ways & Means Advances (WMA) for states & UTs to Rs 47,010 Cr (from Rs 51,560 Cr)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

19. On April 2, Global financial services watchdog IFSCA signed an MoU with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for strengthening information exchange between the two regulators. This agreement focuses on strengthening of inter-regulatory exchange of information, technical cooperation and supervisory collaboration, and opens avenues towards developing innovative insurance solutions for the evolving global trends. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IFSCA + IRDAI = an MoU for strengthening information exchange between the two regulators
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Debasish Panda

20. On April 1, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) signed an MoU with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and AIC STPINEXT Initiatives (STPINEXT - a Section 8 company of STPI) for leveraging innovation through the financial technologies engaged under the FinBlue initiative. The FinBlue initiative by STPI is an integrated programme to start-ups to scale through its incubation facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOB + STPI + STPINEXT = MoU for leveraging innovation through financial technologies engaged under FinBlue initiative
- 'FinBlue' initiative – by STPI
- HQs of STPI – New Delhi | DG – Arvind Kumar
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta | Tagline – “Good people to grow with”

Defence Affairs

21. On April 2, the Indian Army inducted a small number of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), the “Igla-S” systems bought from Russia under emergency procurement. This includes 24 launchers, 216 missiles and testing equipment. The procurement was done through the Vice Chiefs emergency financial powers given to the Services for the first time after the Balakot air strike in February 2019. Moreover, Igla-S, the Army variant of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) being jointly developed by the DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army inducted the man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) - “Igla-S” systems – bought from Russia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

Sports & Games

22. On April 1, Governor of Karnataka, Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Singh Thakur launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the “Khelo India University Games 2021” (KIUG 2021) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This event is the 2nd edition of KIUG after Odisha hosted the 1st edition in 2020. Shri Gehlot launched the logo and official mascot of the games - “Veera” (an Elephant). The official anthem was sung by Chandan Shetty and Nikhil Joshi. KIUG 2021 was scheduled to take place across 5 venues in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thaawar Chand Gehlot + Anurag Singh Thakur = launched the logo, jersey, mascot & anthem of the 2nd edition of “Khelo India University Games 2021” – held in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Logo & official mascot of the KIUG 2021 – “Veera” (an Elephant) | Anthem was sung by – Chandan Shetty & Nikhil Joshi



23. Manipur government signed an MoU with tech-giant Samsung Data System India and Abhitech IT Solutions to set up a world class “Sports Digital Experience Centre” in Imphal as a part of Manipur Olympian Park. With the setting up of the Digital Experience Centre, various achievements of Olympians from Manipur will be digitally displayed making the public aware about their achievements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur + Samsung + Abhitech = an MoU to set up a world class “Sports Digital Experience Centre” in Imphal
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan
- HQs of Abhitech IT Solutions – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

24. On April 3, Australia beat England to win a record 7th ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup title at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand. With their 71-run victory, Australia proved to be the dominating side once again. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – won a record 7th ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup title held in New Zealand (beating - England)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

25. India’s first-ever Snow Marathon was held at Sissu near the north portal of the Atal Tunnel, Rohtang in Lahaul-Spiti. More than 100 runners from across the country and from the Army competed in the race amid sub-zero temperature at an altitude of over 10,000-feet. The marathon was held in five categories and it was organised by the Reach India and Gold Drop Adventure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first-ever Snow Marathon – held at Sissu, in Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh
- Marathon was organised by Reach India & Gold Drop Adventure – at an altitude of over 10,000-feet
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

26. Meghalaya is all set to host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022 scheduled to begin from April 18 to 25, 2022 at SAI Indoor Training Centre, in Shillong. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – to host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022 in Shillong
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

Science & Technology

27. On April 1, Indian space-tech startup Pixxel successfully launched its first fully-fledged commercial satellite called “Shakuntala” with SpaceX’s Falcon-9 rocket. Shakuntala (TD-2) is one of the highest resolution hyperspectral commercial cameras ever flown to space, bringing it one step closer to building a 24x7 health monitor for the planet. The satellite was launched aboard SpaceX’s Transporter-4 mission from Cape Canaveral in the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pixxel – successfully launched its first fully-fledged commercial satellite “Shakuntala” with SpaceX’s Falcon-9 rocket
- HQs of Pixxel – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Awais Ahmed





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Appointments & Resignations

28. Dr. Renu Singh is appointed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) as the next Director of Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun. She will be the institute's second woman director. She is an IFS officer of 1990 batch of Madhya Pradesh cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Renu Singh – appointed as the next Director of Forest Research Institute (FRI)
- HQs of FRI – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director – Dr. Renu Singh

29. Sumant Sinha (Founder, Chairman & CEO of ReNew Power) took over as President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). Sinha replaced Vineet Agarwal. Ajay Singh (Chairman & MD of SpiceJet) is the new Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumant Sinha – appointed as President of the ASSOCHAM
- HQs of ASSOCHAM – New Delhi | President – Vineet Agarwal

30. On April 1, Dr. S Raju took over as the Director General of Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Kolkata. He succeeded Rajendra Singh Garkhal who superannuated on 31st March 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S Raju – took over as the DG of Geological Survey of India (succeeding - R. S. Garkhal)
- HQs of GSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – S. Raju

31. On April 1, Asset management company Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund appointed Anthony Heredia as its managing director and chief executive officer. Heredia succeeded Ashutosh Bishnoi, who retired on 31 March. Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund is a joint venture between Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd (Mahindra Finance) and Manulife Investment Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anthony Heredia – appointed as MD & CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund (succeeding – Ashutosh Bishnoi)
- Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund = joint venture between Mahindra Finance & Manulife Investment Management
- HQs of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Anthony Heredia

32. On April 3, Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, of the Delhi-based Council for Energy Environment and Water was appointed as a member of a high-level group constituted by United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against stemming global warming. Mr. Ghosh is among three Asians, and the only South Asian, serving on the expert group. The High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities is expected to draw up an action plan and recommend actions to businesses and non-State actors to accelerate the transition to net-zero. India has a 2070 target and the U.S. has committed to a 2050 date to become net zero. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunabha Ghosh – appointed as a member of a high-level group constituted by Antonio Guterres, to bolster action against Global Warming
- India's target to become Net Zero – 2070 | U.S. target year – 2050
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945



33. On April 1, the Vice-Chancellor of Indraprastha University (IPU) Dr Mahesh Verma has taken over as the new Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI) that is responsible for setting benchmarks for quality and certifying hospitals and other health facilities. NABH is accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahesh Verma – took over as Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers
- NABH – a constituent board of the QCI
- HQs of NABH – New Delhi | Chairperson – Mahesh Verma | CEO – Atul Mohan Kochhar

Schemes & Initiatives

34. On April 1, In relief to the middle class and small savers, the Finance Ministry announced that the rate of interest on various Small Savings Schemes (SSS) for the first quarter of FY 2022-23 starting from 1st April, 2022 and ending on 30th June, 2022 shall remain unchanged from the current rates applicable for the fourth quarter (1st January, 2022 to 31st March, 2022) of FY 2021-22. The interest rates on national savings certificate, senior citizen savings schemes, public provident fund scheme, Kishan Vikas Patra, Sukanya Samriddhi Account scheme, Post Office Monthly Income Scheme remained unchanged at 6.8%, 7.4%, 7.1%, 6.9%, 7.6%, 6.6% respectively for the April-June quarter (Q1 FY 2022-23). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance kept interest rates on 'Small Savings Schemes (SSS)' unchanged for the Q1 of FY 2022-23
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1% | National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 6.8%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 7.4% | Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Kishan Vikas Patra – 6.9% | Post Office Monthly Income Scheme – 6.6%
- The Small Savings Schemes consist of – 12 Schemes

Important Days & Dates

35. International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is observed annually on 2nd April since 1967 by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. The day was first celebrated in 1966. In 2022, the theme is "Stories are wings that help you soar every day". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 2 – International Children's Book Day – by IBBY (since 1966)
- 2022's Theme – "Stories are wings that help you soar every day"

36. World Autism Awareness Day is observed every year on April 2. Autism is a part of a spectrum of few other neurodevelopmental disorders which include mainly Autism, Asperger's disorder and Rett syndrome. In 2022, the theme is "Inclusive Quality Education for All". This year everybody will focus on providing inclusive and fair education to all. The day was first observed in 2008. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day (since 2008)
- 2022's Theme – “Inclusive Quality Education for All”

37. The Indian Army celebrated 258th Raising Day of Army Medical Corps on April 3, 2022. The Corps has the motto of “Sarve Santu Niramaya” meaning “Let all be free from disease and disability”. The AMC came into existence on 3rd April, 1943. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 3 – 258th Raising Day of Army Medical Corps (AMC) – celebrated by Indian Army
- Motto of AMC – “Sarve Santu Niramaya” | Founded on – 3rd April, 1943

38. The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance is annually observed on 4 April by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). The day raises awareness about landmines and the dangers they pose. In 2022, the theme is “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 4 – International Day for Mine Awareness & Assistance
- 2022's Theme – “Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home”

39. Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath, celebrated its 87th foundation day on 1 April, 2022. Odisha Day is commonly known as Utkal Divas. Odisha came into existence as an independent province in the year 1936. Under British rule, Odisha was a part of the Bengal Presidency. The state was separated from the Bengal and Bihar province on 1 April, 1936. Sir John Hubbak was named the first governor of the state. Jagannath Temple in Puri is known for the famous festival of ‘Rath yatra’ or ‘Chariot Festival’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 1 – 87th Odisha Day or Utkal Divas
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

Books & Authors

40. “Queen of Fire” by award-winning children’s writer and historian Devika Rangachari is a gripping novel in which she sheds light on the brave queen and fearsome warrior Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi. Published by Penguin Random House India in April 2021, Rangachari's book is meant for readers aged 13-17. It focuses on Lakshmibai’s journey as a queen, soldier, and statesman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Queen of Fire” novel – authored by Devika Rangachari
- Published by – Penguin Random House India | About – Rani Lakshmibai

41. A book titled “Decoding Indian Babudom” was written by journalist Ashwini Shrivastava. The 168-page book touches on various aspects of Indian bureaucracy with major focus on what is ailing one of the largest civil administration systems in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Decoding Indian Babudom” book – authored by Ashwini Shrivastava



42. A new book authored by Dr. Sreeram Chaulia, the Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs of OP Jindal Global University, titled “Crunch Time: Narendra Modi’s National Security Crises” (Rupa Publications), was released at the India International Centre in New Delhi by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi. The central claim of the book is that India ceased being a ‘soft state’ since Modi came to the helm. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Crunch Time: Narendra Modi’s National Security Crises” book – authored by Dr. Sreeram Chaulia
- Book released by – Meenakshi Lekhi (MoS in Ministry of External Affairs)
- Published by – Rupa Publications

Obituaries

43. On April 2, A Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet Richard Howard died at age 92. Howard was a professor emeritus at Columbia University. He won the poetry Pulitzer in 1970 for "Untitled Subjects" and was a National Book Award finalist in 2008 for "Without Saying". His translation of Charles Baudelaire's "Les Fleurs du Mal" won the National Book Award (then called the American Book Award) in 1983. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Richard Howard (US) – a Poet – passed away (Pulitzer Prize in 1970 for ‘Untitled Subjects’)

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

44. International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with NITI Aayog organized a National Conclave on “The Impact of COVID-19 on Migration: Benchmarking of Good Practices & Preparing for the Future” at Hotel Taj Palace, Chanakyapuri in New Delhi to initiate, contribute to and support a holistic analysis on and of the core areas of migration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOM + NITI Aayog = organized a National Conclave or a National Panel Discussion on Safe Migration – in New Delhi
- HQs of IOM – Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland | Director General – Antonio Vitorino
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

45. On April 2, the India-Australia Economic Cooperation & Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA) was signed by Piyush Goyal, the Minister of Commerce & Industry and Dan Tehan, the Minister for Trade, Tourism & Investment, Government of Australia in a virtual ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal + Dan Tehan = signed India-Australia Economic Cooperation & Trade Agreement (“IndAus ECTA”)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison



Ranks, Report & Surveys

46. Debuting at the 10th spot on the “Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022” list, Falguni Nayar is the only Indian as she surpassed Biocon’s Kiran Mazumdar Shaw to become India’s richest self-made billionaire woman with the wealth of \$7.6 billion. The list was released by the Hurun Research Institute. Beijing-based property developer Wu Yajun topped the list with the wealth of \$17 billion, followed by Fan Hongwei & Wang Laichun, all three from China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022” list – released by Hurun Research Institute
- Falguni Nayar – 10th spot (the only Indian in top ten)
- Top 3 (all from China): Wu Yajun, Fan Hongwei & Wang Laichun (respectively)

47. As on March end, Chandrapur in Maharashtra is the 3rd hottest city in the world, with a maximum temperature of 43.2 degree Celsius, according to the El Dorado weather website. Kayes city of Mali is the hottest place on earth with 44.4 degrees Celsius. While Segou of Mali is second in the list with 43.8 degrees Celsius. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- El Dorado weather website: Chandrapur (Maharashtra) – the 3rd hottest city in the world (43.2 degree Celsius)
- Hottest city on the Earth – Kayes (Mali) | 2nd hottest city – Segou (Mali)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Amount & Agreements

48. On April 2, India contributed \$5,00,000 to the UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, for their core budget. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations T. S. Tirumurti handed over the amount to Dr. Sima Bahous (UN Women Chief). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India contributed \$5,00,000 to the UN Women for their core budget
- India’s Permanent Representative to the UN – T. S. Tirumurti
- HQs of UN Women – New York, US | Executive Director – Ms. Sima Bahous

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

49. On April 2, the Assam Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, approved an MoU between the environment and forest department of the State and Agence Francaise de Development, a French funding agency, to foster bilateral dialogue in the field of environment. The Cabinet also approved the modified guidelines for issuance of caste certificates. The cabinet also approved raising Rs 170.15 Cr as loan assistance from NABARD for 15 projects of the Public Works Department (Roads). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam Cabinet approved an MoU with a French agency for biodiversity conservation
- Assam Cabinet also approved raising Rs 170.15 Cr loan from NABARD for 15 projects of the Public Works Department
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



50. On April 1, Arunachal Pradesh inked a pact with WWF India to develop the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP). The SBSAP will align with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Pakke Declaration. The state cabinet on November 17, 2021, adopted the 'Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh', which aims to promote 'Climate-Resilient Development' in the state. The announcement is the first of its kind by any state government in the country. The 'Pakke Declaration' focuses on a multi-sectoral approach to low-emission and climate-resilient development based on five broad themes or Panch Dharas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh + WWF India = signed a pact to develop the SBSAP to align with the Pakke Declaration
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini | Established in – 1961





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