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National & States Affairs

101. On April 4, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting launched the “Broadcast Seva Portal”, a platform aimed at improving ease of doing business in the broadcast industry. This portal is integrated with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs portal. This will be an online portal solution for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licences, permissions, registrations etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting – launched the “Broadcast Seva Portal” for improving ease of doing business
- This portal is integrated with – Ministry of Corporate Affairs portal
- [Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur](#) | [Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan](#)

102. On April 5, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav launched a mascot “Prakriti” to spread greater awareness among masses about small changes that can be sustainably adopted in our lifestyle for a better environment. The minister also launched various Green Initiatives for Effective Plastic Waste Management taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in India. To tackle the challenge of plastic pollution, PM Narendra Modi announced India’s pledge to phase out “Single Use Plastics (SUPs)” by 2022. Bhupender Yadav also administered “Swachh Bharat Harit Bharat Green Pledge” to the gathering. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – launched a mascot “Prakriti” & “Green Initiatives for Effective Plastic Waste Management”
- Green Initiatives for effective PWM in India are taken by = MoEFCC + CPCB
- PM Narendra Modi announced India’s pledge to phase out “Single Use Plastics (SUPs)” by 2022

103. On April 3, in Ladakh, a ‘Community Museum’ was inaugurated in Gya - Sasoma villages of Leh district to preserve its rich cultural heritage for future generations. Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, LAHDC, Leh Chairman/CEC Tashi Gyaltsen inaugurated the Community Museum in Gya - Sasoma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A ‘Community Museum’ was inaugurated in – Gya - Sasoma villages, Leh, Ladakh
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh](#) | [Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur](#)

104. Delhi government plans to set up “Hobby Hubs” in government schools for the 2022-2023 academic session. Private academies, individuals and NGOs will be roped in to provide free training in fields selected by the schools. There are five broad categories of activities: dance, music, technical, literary & others. The idea is to make optimum use of school infrastructure and to use it after school hours to promote these extra-curricular activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Govt – plans to set up “Hobby Hubs” in government schools for the 2022-2023 academic session
- Five broad categories of activities: Dance, Music, Technical, Literary & Others
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)



105. On April 2, National Commission for Women (NCW) launched an “Anti-Human Trafficking Cell” to improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking, raising awareness among women and girls, capacity building and training of anti-trafficking units and to increase the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies. The Cell will conduct gender sensitization training and workshops in combating human trafficking for police officers and for prosecutors at regional, state and district levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW – launched an “Anti-Human Trafficking Cell” to improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992

106. On April 7, the Petroglyphs of Konkan region, spread across Maharashtra and Goa, are among the three Indian attractions that have been added to the Tentative List of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) World Heritage Sites. The other two Indian sites are Jingkieng Jri, the living root bridge in Meghalaya, and Sri Veerabhadra Temple in Andhra Pradesh’s Lepakshi. Petroglyphs or Geoglyphs are a form of rock art. The petroglyphs in Ratnagiri region are also known as ‘Katal shilpa’. The Tentative List in UNESCO mentions 7 sites with petroglyphs in Ratnagiri district - Ukshi, Jambharun, Kasheli, Rundhe Tali, Devihsol, Barsu and Devache Gothane, one in Sindhudurg district - Kudopi village, and 9 sites at Pansaimol in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Petroglyphs’ (Geoglyphs) of Konkan region – added to the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Other 2 Indian sites on the list: ‘Jingkieng Jri’ living root bridge (Meghalaya) & Sri Veerabhadra Temple (Andhra Pradesh)

107. On April 6, the central government formed an Advisory Committee for ₹76,000 Cr “Semicon India” programme, which will include senior government officials, established academicians as well as industry and domain experts. The Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw with the Minister of State, Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), Rajeev Chandrasekhar, as the Vice-Chairperson. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, the Secretary of MeitY, will be the convener. A specialised and dedicated “India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)” has been set up within Digital India Corporation to drive India’s strategies for developing the ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government formed an Advisory Committee for ₹76,000 Cr “Semicon India” programme
- Chairman of the committee – Ashwini Vaishnaw | VC – Rajeev Chandrasekhar | Convener – Ajay Prakash Sawhney

108. On April 5, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel announced to create a Conducive Environment for the rehabilitation of families who had taken refuge in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh during “Salwa Judum” movement. In 2005, Salwa Judum, which in Gondi means ‘Peace March’ or ‘Purification Hunt’ was essentially a counter-insurgency group from within tribals to take on the Maoists. It was supposed to be a peace mission and was launched by Mahendra Karma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh Govt – to rehabilitate people who migrated during ‘Salwa Judum’ movement
- ‘Salwa Judum’ movement was started by Mahendra Karma (in 2005)
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

109. On April 6, Grain commerce platform Arya.ag joined the UN Global Compact (UNGC) India, voluntarily confirming to the universal sustainability principles and taking steps to support the UN sustainability development goals (SDGs). The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is an evolved framework of corporate governance driven sustainability. By conforming to the SDGs 2030 and 10 UNGC principles, Arya.ag will conduct business in alignment with UN Global Compact Network India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Arya.ag – joined the UN Global Compact India to support the UN SDGs
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

110. On April 6, The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) launched a pilot project in Uttarakhand to implement the 'One Health' framework by One Health Support Unit. The key objective of the Unit is to develop a National One Health roadmap based on the learnings of the pilot project implementation. The 'One Health India' program initiated by the Department will work with stakeholders from various sectors to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health, and environmental health through technology and finance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DAHD – launched a pilot project in Uttarakhand to implement the 'One Health' framework by One Health Support Unit
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

International Affairs

111. On April 6, Madagascar became the 30th country to join the India-backed Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). India's Ambassador to Madagascar Abhay Kumar welcomed the island nation's entry into the CDRI. The CDRI is a global partnership that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the CDRI during his address at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madagascar – became the 30th country to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- Narendra Modi had launched the 'CDRI' during his address at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019
- India's Ambassador to Madagascar – Abhay Kumar
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina
- HQs of CDRI – New Delhi | Member countries – 30 | Launched by Narendra Modi (in 2019)

112. On April 5, Indian embassy in Kathmandu signed an MoU with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Nepal for the construction of Khumjung Khunde Wastewater Management Project. The community development project will be built under India-Nepal Development Cooperation with the financial assistance of NRs 41.13 million from the Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = an MoU for the construction of Khumjung Khunde Wastewater Management Project
- Financial assistance from India – NRs 41.13 million
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

113. On April 5, the United States, United Kingdom and Australia plan to work together via the recently created security alliance known as "AUKUS" to develop hypersonic missiles. The move comes amid growing concern by the U.S. and allies about China's growing military assertiveness in the Pacific. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- US + UK + Australia = created security alliance known as “AUKUS” to develop hypersonic missiles
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

114. On April 2, Nepal became the 105th country to sign on to the Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA). Syria & Bahrain were the 103rd & 104th countries to join the ISA Framework Agreement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal – became the 105th member country to sign on to the ISA Framework Agreement
- ISA was launched in 2015 at COP21 – by India & France
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Signatory Countries – 105 | Member countries – 86

115. On April 5, German police shut down \$1.3 billion Russian-language illegal Darknet firm ‘Hydra Market’ and seized \$25.2 million (€23 million) worth of Bitcoin. Hydra is one of the biggest Darknet Bitcoin market place. Founded in 2015, ‘Hydra’ sold illegal drugs, stolen credit card data, counterfeit currency and fake identity documents, masking the identities of those involved using the Tor encryption network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- German police – shut down \$1.3 bn Russian-language illegal Darknet firm ‘Hydra’ & seized \$25.2 mn worth of Bitcoin
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

116. On April 4, Taliban announced a ban on the cultivation of narcotics in Afghanistan, the world’s biggest opium producer. The United Nations estimated Afghanistan’s opium production worth \$1.4 billion at its height in 2017. Opium is a highly addictive narcotic drug acquired in the dried latex form the opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) seed pod. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taliban announced a ban on the cultivation of narcotics in Afghanistan (the world’s biggest opium producer)

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

117. Punjab National Bank (PNB) made Positive Pay System (PPS) mandatory for the cheque of Rs 10 lakhs and above effective from April 4 to protect customers from large value cheque frauds. As per the Positive Pay System (PPS) developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a customer issuing the high-value cheque has to reconfirm some essential details, which are cross-checked while presenting the cheque in clearing before payment. These details are to be shared with the bank at least 24 working hours before the cheque is presented for clearing. Customers can share the details through internet banking, mobile banking, SMS banking, or their home branch in the prescribed format. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – made “Positive Pay System” mandatory for the cheque of Rs 10 lakhs & above effective from April 4
- PPS is developed by – NPCI
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008



118. On April 4, To curb the misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) given by clients to stock brokers, SEBI released new guidelines wherein execution of Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) will be made compulsory for transfer of securities towards deliveries and settlements. The execution of the DDPI will also be applicable for pledging or repledging of securities. The fresh guidelines will be effective from July 1. Under DDPI, clients can explicitly agree to authorise the stock broker and depository participant to access their beneficiary ownership account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – released new guidelines to curb the misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA)
- SEBI – made execution of DDPI compulsory for transfer of securities towards deliveries & settlements
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

119. On April 4, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted an ad-hoc committee for reviewing and making recommendations for further strengthening of governance norms at Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs). G. Mahalingam, former whole time member of SEBI, will be the chairman of the committee. The committee will develop effective metrics for monitoring various aspects of the functioning of MIIs and key managerial persons (KMPs) and revisit the code of conduct and code of ethics for directors of the governing board and KMPs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – constituted committee for reviewing & making recommendations for strengthening of governance norms at MIIs
- Committee will be chaired by – G. Mahalingam
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

120. On April 6, Union Bank of India (UBI) announced to create a “Digital Bank within Bank” as part of its future ready digital transformation project. Under the project, it will launch a super app, as per the bank’s regulatory filing. Further, a host of digital products, pre-approved personal Loan (PAPL), union cash (pensioner loan), Shishu Mudra loan, MSME loan auto-renewal, agri loan (KCC) auto-renewal, CRM, Soft POS, branch token and mobile app-based deposit module, will be launched. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI – announced to create a “Digital Bank within Bank” as part of its future ready digital transformation project
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

121. A total of 27 Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Financial Institutions (FIs) reported 96 cases of fraud, involving a total amount of Rs 34,097 Cr in the first 9 months of FY22 ending on December, 2021. Punjab National Bank recorded the highest value of frauds worth Rs 4,820 Cr, while Bank of India recorded the highest number of frauds at 13, according to data from the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 27 SCBs & FIs reported 96 cases of fraud worth Rs 34,097 Cr in the first 9 months of FY22 (ending on Dec, 2021)
- PNB – recorded the highest value of frauds worth Rs 4,820 Cr
- BoI – recorded the highest number of frauds at 13

122. On April 7, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) amended “IBBI (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017” for voluntary liquidation of stressed firms to make the exit process quicker and more efficient. The period for the distribution of liquidation proceeds is reduced to 30 days from the current 6 months. In cases where claims are received from creditors, the liquidator has to complete the liquidation process and submit the final report with the board and the Registrar of Companies in 270 days. In cases where no claims are received from creditor, the period for the preparation of list of stakeholders by the liquidator will be reduced to 15 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBBI – amended the “IBBI (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017”
- The period for the distribution of liquidation proceeds is reduced to 30 days from the current 6 months
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ravi Mittal | Established in – 2016 (set up by Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

123. On April 6, Union Bank of India announced to sell its 8% stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company (ISARC). The stake sale is subject to obtaining requisite regulatory approvals. ISARC is the India’s first ARC supported by a large number of public sector banks and undertakings, focussed on NPA resolution of the MSME sector. The ARC is sponsored by SIDBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI – to sell its 8% stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company (ISARC)
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

124. On April 7, ICICI Securities and CoverStack, a digital B2B platform for insurance services, announced a partnership to offer insurance products on the ICICIdirect platform. Using CoverStack, ICICIdirect’s customers can now search, customize, compare, and buy the most suitable insurance plans for health and motor insurance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Securities + CoverStack = partnership to offer insurance products on the ICICIdirect platform
- HQs of ICICI Securities – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vijay Chandok

Defence Affairs

125. On April 6, the 9th edition of India & Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise was culminated. The exercise was commenced on 25 March, 2022 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (HP). Combat shooting, sniping, survival in mountains, hostage rescue drills and unarmed combat were practiced extensively during the Exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9th edition of India & Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise – culminated at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, HP
- Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som | President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov



Sports & Games

126. On April 3, Fencing Association of India (FAI) announced that India will host the Asian Junior U-20 Men & Women and Cadet U-17 Boys & Girls Fencing Championships in Ahmedabad in 2023. It is the first time that India will host a fencing event of such a magnitude. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to host the “Asian Cadet and Junior Fencing Championships 2023” in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- HQs of FAI – New Delhi | President – Pankaj Singh

Science & Technology

127. On April 6, Amazon signed agreements with three companies - Arianespace, Blue Origin, and United Launch Alliance (ULA), to deploy satellites for its ‘Project Kuiper’ that aim to provide high-speed, low-latency broadband to a wide range of customers across the globe. Amazon has secured a total of up to 83 launches over a 5-year period. Amazon’s Project Kuiper was approved by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission in July 2020, with a constellation of 3,236 satellites in the low Earth orbit (LEO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon signed agreements with Arianespace, Blue Origin & ULA – to deploy satellites for its ‘Project Kuiper’
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

128. On April 6, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to convert civil (passenger) aircraft to multi-mission tanker transport (MMTT) aircraft in India. HAL will convert pre-owned civil aircraft into air-refuelling aircraft with cargo and transport capabilities under this pact. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + IAI = an MoU to convert civil (passenger) aircraft to multi-mission tanker transport (MMTT) aircraft in India
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

Appointments & Resignations

129. On April 4, Pakistan’s former Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed was nominated for the office of the caretaker Prime Minister by incumbent Imran Khan. Justice Ahmed served as Chief Justice from December, 2019 until his retirement in February 2022. Moreover, on April 11, Shehbaz Sharif was elected as the country’s 23rd Prime Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gulzar Ahmed – nominated for the Pakistan’s office of the caretaker Prime Minister
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Shehbaz Sharif | President – Arif Alvi



130. On April 1, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) appointed Dr. Ian Fry as an Independent Expert on Climate Change and Human Rights. Ian Fry, who holds both Australian & Tuvaluan nationality, is the first to hold this post. Tuvalu, a tiny, low-lying Pacific nation, has been prominent in drawing global attention to the struggle against rising sea levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Ian Fry – appointed as the 1st Independent Expert on Climate Change & Human Rights – by the UNHRC
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan

131. On April 7, the RBI approved reappointment of Murali M. Natrajan as the MD & CEO of DCB Bank for 2 years until 28 April, 2024. Murali M Natrajan has been serving as MD & CEO of DCB Bank since April 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Murali M. Natrajan – re-appointed as the MD & CEO of DCB Bank for 2 years
- HQs of DCB bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Murali M. Natrajan
- DCB bank – the 1st bank to start Aadhaar-based ATM service (in 2016)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

132. On April 5, Noted poet and litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra is selected for the prestigious “Saraswati Samman 2021” for his collection of poems ‘Mein to Yahan Hun’. Instituted in 1991, Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious literary awards in India. It carries a citation, a plaque, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakhs. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee, whose current head is Dr Subhash C Kashyap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramdarash Mishra – selected for the prestigious “Saraswati Samman 2021”
- He is selected for his collection of poems ‘Mein to Yahan Hun’

Schemes & Initiatives

133. On April 5, Manipur government has increased the free hospitalisation benefits for poor people under the “Chief Ministergi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT)” scheme from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per family every year. The state cabinet also approved to increase the corpus fund for “Manipur StartUp” from earlier Rs 30 Cr to Rs 100 Cr. Over 83,000 beneficiaries have received benefits of free hospitalisation of upto Rs 2 lakh per family every year in private or government hospitals in the last four years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – hiked free hospitalisation benefits under “Chief Ministergi Hakshelgi Tengbang” scheme to Rs 5 lakh per family every year (from Rs 2 lakh)
- Manipur – also approved to increase the corpus fund for “Manipur StartUp” to Rs 100 Cr (from earlier Rs 30 Cr)
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan





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Important Days & Dates

134. April 7 is observed as World Health Day to draw public attention towards a specific health related topic. The day marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. In 2022, the theme is “Our Planet, Our Health”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 7 – World Health Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Our Planet, Our Health”

135. On 7 April, UNESCO commemorates the “International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda”, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. The date marks the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government. To mark the 28th anniversary of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, UNESCO organized a ceremony in memory of the victims on 21 April, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 7 – 28th “International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda” – by UNESCO
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

136. On April 7, President Ram Nath Kovind addressed the members of the Indian community in an event hosted by the Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, Reenat Sandhu. The Indian community serves as a bridge between not just India and the Netherlands, but between India and Europe. Indian community in the Netherlands is the largest Indian origin diaspora in mainland Europe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind – addressed the members of the Indian community in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Ambassador of India to the Netherlands – Reenat Sandhu
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

Ranks, Report & Surveys

137. According to the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), in March, Chhattisgarh ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate in India with an unemployment rate of 0.6%. India’s unemployment rate stood at 7.6% in the same month (March). Haryana has the highest unemployment rate at 26.7%, followed by Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir at 25% each and Jharkhand at 14.5%. The Chhattisgarh government adopted a new model of development three years ago in line with Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of ‘Gram Swaraj’. The state government has set up the ‘Chhattisgarh Employment Mission’ intending to create around 15 lakh new employment opportunities in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- According to the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE):
 - Lowest unemployment rate – Chhattisgarh (0.6%)
 - Highest – Haryana (26.7%) followed by Rajasthan and J & K (25%)
 - India's unemployment – 7.6%
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

138. On April 4, As per Bloomberg Billionaire Index, as of April 2, 2022, Adani's net worth rose to \$100 billion taking him to the 10th rank. His wealth increased by \$23.5 billion so far this year. With this, Adani Group's Gautam Adani has joined the \$100 billion club of richest entrepreneurs in the world and became India's and Asia's richest person surpassing Mukesh Ambani who stood at 11th rank with \$99 billion. Globally, Tesla's CEO Elon Musk topped the list with the net worth of \$273 billion, followed by Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos at second place with a wealth of \$188 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Bloomberg Billionaire Index" – released as of April 2, 2022
- In India: 1st – Gautam Adani (globally 10th) | 2nd – Mukesh Ambani (globally 11th)
- Globally: Elon Musk (\$273 billion) | Jeff Bezos (\$188 billion)

139. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published the third installment of its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) titled "Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change" on April 4, 2022. The report prepared by IPCC Working Group III (WG-III) focuses on the mitigation of climate change. According to the report, global emissions can be halved by 2030 with major transitions in the energy sector. The IPCC was established by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd part of AR6 "Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change" – published by IPCC
- HQs of IPCC – Geneva, Switzerland | Chair – Hoesung Lee (established by WMO & UNEP)

140. Almost the entire global population (99%) breathes air that exceeds WHO's air quality limits and threatens its health, according to the 2022 update to the World Health Organisation's "Air Quality Database". It includes measurements of particulate matter with diameters equal or smaller than 10 µm (PM10) or 2.5 µm (PM2.5). In the 117 countries monitoring air quality, the air in 17% of cities in high-income countries falls below WHO's air quality guidelines for PM 2.5 or PM 10. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO's "Air Quality Database": 99% Global Population breathes air that exceeds WHO's air quality limits
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

141. India's agricultural products export touched a new milestone by crossing \$50 billion for the FY22. This would be the highest level ever achieved for agriculture exports. The provisional data of DGCI&S showed that the agricultural exports have grown by 19.92% during 2021-22 to touch \$50.21 billion. As per the data, the highest ever exports have been achieved for staples like rice (% 9.65 billion). Meanwhile, exports of marine products also reached the highest ever at \$7.71 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's agricultural products export crossed \$50 billion for FY22, highest level ever achieved (growth of 19.92%)
- Exports of marine products reached the highest ever at \$7.71 billion

142. On April 8, the 12th edition of "QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022" was released. These rankings cover a total of 51 disciplines, grouped into 5 broad subject areas. In the stream of 'Arts and Humanities', the University of Oxford has topped the list with a score of 98. While there is no Indian university in the first 100 ranks in this category. Massachusetts Institute of Technology secured the first rank in the 2022 list with a score of 96.5 in 'Engineering and Technology' category. IIT Bombay & IIT Delhi ranked 65 and 72 respectively in the 'Engineering and Technology' list this year. In 'Life Sciences and Medicine', only three Indian universities made the list this year, namely All India Institute of Medical Sciences (rank 204), University of Delhi (rank 330) and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (rank 375). Moreover, the winners of other categories are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th "QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022" – cover a total of 51 disciplines, grouped into 5 categories
- 'Arts & Humanities' category: Top – University of Oxford (UK)
- 'Engineering & Technology' category: Top – Massachusetts Institute of Technology | IIT Bombay (65) & IIT Delhi (72)
- 'Life Sciences & Medicine' category: Top – Harvard University
- 'Social Sciences & Management' category: Top – Harvard University (USA)
- 'Natural Sciences' category: Top – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)

143. As per the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) report, the illegal online transactions of endangered wildlife species in Myanmar rose 74% in 2021. The trade in endangered wildlife, both live animals and animal parts, has long flourished in the borderlands of Myanmar, Thailand and China. As per the report, the sale of mammal species has increased by 241%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WWF report: illegal online transactions of endangered wildlife species in Myanmar rose 74% in 2021
- The sale of mammal species has increased by 241%
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini | Established in – 1961

144. On April 6, according to the 5th edition of the "Grohe - Hurun India Real Estate Rich List", DLF Chair Rajiv Singh became the Richest Real Estate Entrepreneur in India with a wealth of ₹61,220 Cr. He is followed by Mangal Prabhat Lodha and family with their wealth of ₹52,970 Cr. The list has a total of 100 individuals covering 71 companies across 14 cities of India. The average age of the billionaire list is 61 years. Apart from realtors, the list also includes hotel and hospitality entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of the "Grohe - Hurun India Real Estate Rich List" – released on April 6
- Rajiv Singh – became the Richest Real Estate Entrepreneur in India | Followed by – Mangal Prabhat Lodha



Amount & Agreements

145. On April 5, World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide a loan of Rs 7,500 Cr for the Gujarat government's "Mission School of Excellence" project that aims to improve the quality of education in the state. Under the 'Mission School of Excellence' project, the state government will spend Rs 10,000 Cr in the next 5 years and cover all 35,133 government and 5,847 grant-in-aid schools in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank + AIIB = to provide a loan of Rs 7,500 Cr to Gujarat for its "Mission School of Excellence" project
- Gujarat Govt will spend Rs 10,000 Cr in the next 5 years under this project
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

Ordinance, Bills & Acts

146. In April 2022, the Union Cabinet approved the draft legislation "Indian Antarctica Bill" to provide a regulatory framework for India's research activities in Antarctica and protect the environment in the icy continent. The Indian Antarctica Bill is piloted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959. The Indian Antarctic programme, which began in 1981, has completed 40 scientific expeditions and built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica - Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1988) and Bharati (2012). Currently, Maitri and Bharati are fully operational. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved "Indian Antarctica Bill" to provide a regulatory framework for India's research activities in Antarctica
- 'Indian Antarctica Bill' is piloted by – Ministry of Earth Sciences | Indian Antarctic programme began in – 1981
- India's 3 permanent research base stations in Antarctica: Dakshin Gangotri (1983), Maitri (1988) & Bharati (2012)
- 'Antarctic Treaty' was signed in 1959

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

147. On April 4, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) entered into a strategic partnership with 'Payments Canada' to transform its payment system operations and help implement the Real-Time Rail (RTR), the new real-time payments system that will allow Canadians to initiate payments and receive irrevocable funds in seconds, 24/7/365. TCS will leverage its deep knowledge of the Canadian payments industry and extensive experience in designing and implementing large payment systems for its Canadian financial services clients to help Payments Canada create and execute an integration roadmap for the RTR. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TCS + Payments Canada = partnership to transform Canada's payment system operations & help implement the RTR
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau



148. On April 5, NTPC signed an agreement with Gujarat Gas (GGL) for blending green hydrogen in Piped Natural Gas (PNG) network of the State government utility at the power producer's Kawas facility. Green hydrogen will be produced by using electricity from the existing 1 megawatt (MW) floating solar project of NTPC Kawas. Initially, the percentage of hydrogen blending in the PNG shall be around 5% and after successful completion, it shall be further increased. GGL is India's largest City Gas Distribution (CGD) company and has a presence across 43 districts in 6 States and 1 UT. This is a step toward the decarbonization of the cooking sector and self-sufficiency for the energy requirements of the nation. On August 15, 2021, PM Narendra Modi announced the launch of the National Hydrogen Mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC + Gujarat Gas = agreement for blending Green Hydrogen in Piped Natural Gas network of Gujarat at Kawas facility
- Initially percentage of hydrogen blending in the PNG – 5%
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

149. On April 5, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Larsen & Toubro and ReNew Power agreed to form a joint venture company to develop Green Hydrogen projects across the country and capitalize on the government's ambitious plans for this sector. Further, Indian Oil and L&T have signed another binding term sheet to form a joint venture to manufacture and sell electrolyzers used to produce green hydrogen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOCL + L&T + ReNew Power = agreed to form a JV to develop Green Hydrogen projects
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

150. On April 6, Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) signed an MoU with the Jharkhand government to set up Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Chandil in the Seraikela-Kharsawan district. The objective was to shape more young talents of Jharkhand and make them industry ready. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TSF + Jharkhand = to set up Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Chandil, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Jharkhand
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais





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