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## **INDEX**

National & States Affairs	5
International Affairs	7
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs	8
Defence Affairs	11
Sports & Games	12
Science & Technology	12
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & prizes	13
Schemes & Initiatives	15
Important Days & Dates	15
Books & Authors	16
Meetings, Conferences & Summits	16
Ranks, Reports & Surveys	
Amount & Agreements	17
Ordinance, Bills & Acts	
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnershipshe Occession Bank	18

## National & States Affairs

**151.** On April 8, Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) and National Thermal Power Corporation will form a joint venture to set up an "Ultra-Mega Solar Park" in the state to generate 2,500 MW green power. The Rs 1,727 Cr project proposal was kick-started in 2020. These projects would create 7,500 jobs during construction and 5,000 during operations, boost local economies and help provide clean & cheap energy to the consumers. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- MAHAGENCO + NTPC = will set up an "Ultra-Mega Solar Park" in Maharashtra to generate 2,500 MW green power
- Maharashtra: CM Uddhav Thackeray | Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of NTPC New Delhi | CMD Gurdeep Singh | Founded in 1975

**152.** On April 2, the Indian Coast Guard unit Karaikal inducted interceptor boat "C-436" (ICGS C-436) to its fleet to improve surveillance along the coastline of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The Interceptor Boat (IB), which is the 36<sup>th</sup> of its series, was commissioned at its base port of Krishnapatnam by then chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh Dinesh Kumar on January 5, 2018. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- ICG inducted its "C-436" Interceptor Boat at Karaikal Port, Puducherry
- Puducherry: CM N. Rangasamy | Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

**153.** On April 6, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the "Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees (DGCs) Performance Monitoring System (GDPMS)" to help the DGCs in enhancing people-river connect. The meeting was also attended virtually by the representatives of over 100 District Ganga Committees from across the Ganga Basin. Shri Shekhawat emphasized on "Arth Ganga Model", envisioned by PM Narendra Modi. The Minister also emphasized on the DGC 4Ms (Monthly, Mandated, Monitored and Minuted) meetings to take place regularly (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month). {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched "Digital Dashboard for District Ganga Committees Performance Monitoring System"
- GS Shekhawat emphasized on "Arth Ganga Model", envisioned by PM Narendra Modi
- GS Shekhawat also emphasized on the 'DGC 4Ms' (Monthly, Mandated, Monitored & Minuted) meetings

**154.** On April 8, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) constituted an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force. The task force is headed by Apoorva Chandra, Secretary of Ministry of I&B. The Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) sector in India has the potential to become the torchbearer of 'Create in India' & 'Brand India'. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of I&B constituted an AVGC Promotion Task Force headed by Apoorva Chandra
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan



**155.** April 7, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched an anti-corruption mobile app called "1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App" developed by the state's Vigilance Department. The app makes it easier for people to lodge graft related complaints directly with the authorities. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- Pushkar Singh Dhami (Uttarakhand) launched "1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App"
- The app is developed Vigilance Department of Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital Dehradun & Gairsain | CM Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**156.** On April 6, the Tamil Nadu government formed a 13-member panel to frame the state education policy, in response to the National Education Policy. Headed by Delhi High Court retired Chief Justice D. Murugesan, the panel members include former chess world champion Viswanathan Anand and prominent Carnatic musician T. M. Krishna, among others. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu Govt formed a 13-member panel to frame the "State Education Policy"
- The panel is headed by D. Murugesan (Delhi HC retired Chief Justice)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital Chennai | CM Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**157.** On April 6, The Haryana Vidhan Sabha passed a resolution seeking completion of the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal (SYL) Canal for issue of sharing of river waters between Haryana and Punjab. The canal, once completed, will enable sharing of the waters of the rivers Ravi and Beas between the two states. The issue dates back to 1966 at the time of reorganisation of Punjab and formation of Haryana was formed. Punjab was opposed to sharing the waters of the two rivers with Haryana. The Eradi Tribunal headed by Supreme Court Judge V Balakrishna Eradi was set up to reassess availability and sharing of water. In 1987, the tribunal recommended an increase in the shares of Punjab and Haryana to 5 MAF and 3.83 MAF, respectively. {Read more}

- Key Points:
  - Haryana Vidhan Sabha passed a resolution seeking completion of the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal to solve water dispute between Haryana and Punjab
- The Eradi Tribunal set up to reassess availability & sharing of water was headed by SC Judge V Balakrishna Eradi
- Haryana: Capital Chandigarh | CM Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor Bandaru Dattatraya
- Punjab: Capital Chandigarh | CM Bhagwant Mann | Governor Banwarilal Purohit

**158.** On April 9, the National Horticulture Board (NHB) has selected Anantapur, Kurnool and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh for the implementation of a pilot project of the "Cluster Development Programme (CDP)". It is one of the 53 horticulture crop clusters in India with a specific crop in each cluster. The NHB has approved an additional layout of funds for the total project cost of ₹269.95 Cr suggested by Andhra Pradesh. Initially, the programme would be rolled out in 12 clusters in 11 States. In Andhra Pradesh, the banana crop cluster has been selected for the pilot launch. {Read more} Key Points:

- NHB selected Anantapur, Kurnool & Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh for the implementation of a pilot project of the "Cluster Development Programme (CDP)"
- Banana crop cluster is selected for the pilot launch in Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital Amravati | CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan



**159.** On April 7, University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved establishment of Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi chairs at two Central universities - University of Delhi and Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur. Santha Kabi Bhimabhoi played a stellar role in rekindling the cultural and literary consciousness in Odisha. {Read more} Key Points:

- UGC approved establishment of "Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi chairs" at University of Delhi & Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya
- Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya located in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
- Santha Kabi Bhimabhoi a saint from Odisha
- HQs of UGC New Delhi | Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar | Founded in 1956

**160.** On April 7, Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the continuation of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), till March 2023. The intended targets that will be achieved by AIM are: establishing 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), establishing 101 Atal Incubation Centres, establishing 50 Atal Community Innovation Centres, and supporting 200 start-ups via the Atal New India Challenges. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog in 2016 to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the continuation of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) till March 2023
- HQs of AIM New Delhi | Director Chintan Vaishnav | Launched in 2016 (a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog)

## **International Affairs**

**161.** "Machu Picchu", which is nestled between the slops of the Andes Mountains in Peru above the Urubamba River valley, is one of the world's famous archaeological wonders. The Inca citadel, built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, is well known for its sophisticated dry-stone walls. But according to a recent study, we have been calling it by the wrong name for over 100 years. In a new study published in "Nawpa Pacha: Journal of the Institute of Andean Studies", historians argue that the site was called "Huayna Picchu" or simply "Picchu" by the Incas, who built it. In 1912, the US explorer was informed by a landowner's son that the ruins were indeed called "Huayna Picchu". {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- A famous archaeological site "Machu Picchu" or "Huayna Picchu" or "Picchu" located in Peru
- Peru Lima Sol | President Pedro Castillo | PM Anibal Torres

**162.** On April 4, President Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Amsterdam on his two-nation visit, the first presidential trip to the Netherlands after 34 years. He visited 'Keukenhof', one of the world's largest flower garden where he named a new breed of yellow tulips "Maitri" - symbolic of the special & enduring friendship between India and the Netherlands. {Read more} Key Points:

- 'Keukenhof', one of the world's largest flower garden located in Netherlands
- President Ram Nath Kovind named a new breed of yellow tulips "Maitri"
- Netherlands Amsterdam Euro | PM Mark Rutte

**163.** On April 8, Russia was suspended from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) after the 193-member General Assembly voted to adopt a resolution moved by the United States over allegations related to Russian-Ukraine conflict. The resolution titled "Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council" was adopted with 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions, including India. With this, Russia became the second country to have its membership rights stripped at the UNHRC. In 2011, Libya was suspended by the assembly. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- Russia was suspended from the UNHRC after the UNGA voted to adopt a resolution proposed by the US
- India was among 58 abstentions (declined to vote for or against the proposal)
- Russia Moscow Russian Ruble | PM Mikhail Mishustin | President Vladimir Putin

**164.** April 5, Sweden introduced a pilot project to produce 'Green' Steel by burning hydrogen. The high-tech pilot plant is seeking to significantly reduce the carbon emissions involved in steel production by switching from burning coking coal to burning hydrogen. In Sweden, a single company, steel giant SSAB, accounts for about 10% of the country's emissions. HYBRIT or Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology is a joint venture between SSAB and Swedish state-owned power firm Vattenfall. {Read more}

## Key Points:

- Sweden introduced a pilot project to produce 'Green' Steel by burning Hydrogen (instead of burning Coking Coal)
- Hydrogen Breakthrough Ironmaking Technology (HYBRIT) a JV between SSAB & Vattenfall
- Sweden Stockholm Krona | PM Magdalena Andersson

# **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**165.** On April 6, IndusInd Bank announced that its flagship mobile application for merchants namely 'Indus Merchant Solutions' received the "Outstanding Digital CX - SME Payments" award at the "Digital CX Awards 2022". The Digital CX Awards event is organised by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- 'Indus Merchant Solutions' app received "Outstanding Digital CX SME Payments" award at Digital CX Awards 2022
- 'Digital CX Awards' event is organised by Digital Banker
- HQs of IndusInd Bank Pune, MH | MD & CEO Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline "We Make You Feel Richer"

**166.** On April 6, Supply chain finance company KredX partnered ICICI Bank to offer "ICICI Bank-KredX Commercial Card", for B2B payments. This is the first-of-its-kind cashback card that enables businesses to avail financial rewards instantly for all B2B payments, without incurring any additional cost. Through this partnership, KredX aims to disburse upwards of ₹2,000 Cr B2B vendor payments per month. The company also aims to increase customer base 300% by the end of 2022. {Read more} Key Points:

- KredX + ICICI Bank = to offer the first-of-its-kind cashback card "ICICI Bank-KredX Commercial Card" for B2B payments
- KredX aims to disburse upwards of ₹2,000 Cr B2B vendor payments per month
- HQs of KredX Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO Manish Kumar
- HQs of ICICI Bank Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines "Hum Hain Na!" & "Khayal Apka"



**167.** On April 7, DBS Bank India partnered with Social Alpha, a popular innovation curation & venture development platform for tech start-ups, to address the global issue of food waste through sustainable solutions. Nearly 40% of food produced in India is lost before it reaches the markets and further wasted at the retailer level, which decreases the nutritional security and causes income losses for farmers. Moreover, an estimated 50 kg per capita of household food waste is recorded, totalling 68 million tonnes a year. A two-year program "Techtonic Innovations Towards Zero Food Waste" is presented by DBS and powered by Social Alpha. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- DBS Bank India + Social Alpha = partnership to address the global issue of Food Waste through Sustainable Solutions
- "Techtonic Innovations Towards Zero Food Waste" program is presented by DBS & powered by Social Alpha
- HQs of DBS Bank India Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO Surojit Shome
- Social Alpha (Foundation in Bengaluru, Karnataka) a joint initiative of Tata Trust & Indian Govt

**168.** On April 7, Axis Bank signed a Partial Guarantee Facility Agreement (PGFA) with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a partial guarantee programme with initial outlay of \$150 million (Rs 1,139.85 Cr), aimed at supporting supply chain financing for impact sectors. Special focus will be towards ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and priority sectors. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- Axis Bank + ADB = signed a Partial Guarantee Facility Agreement with initial outlay of \$150 million (Rs 1,139.85 Cr)
- HQs of Axis Bank Mumbai | MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"
- HQs of ADB Mandaluyong, Philippines | President Masatsugu Asakawa | Members 68 | Established in 1966

**169.** On April 7, the RBI issued new guidelines on the establishment of Digital Banking Units (DBUs) to offer products and services in both self-served and assisted mode round-the-clock. In the Union Budget, the government announced the setting up of at least 75 such units in 75 districts to commemorate 75 years of the country's independence as 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. As per the guidelines, Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks, Payments Banks and Local Area Banks) having experience in digital banking are allowed to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres without having the need to take permission from the RBI. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- RBI issued new guidelines on the establishment of Digital Banking Units (DBUs) to offer products & services
- SCBs (except RRBs, PBs & LABs) having experience in digital banking are allowed to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres without RBI's permission
- HQs of RBI Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**170.** On April 7, the RBI imposed several restrictions on Bengaluru-based Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita, including a withdrawal cap of Rs 5,000 per account, following a deteroriation in the lender's financial position. The directions shall remain in force for a period of 6 months. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- RBI imposed several restrictions on Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita (Bengaluru, Karnataka) for 6 months
- HQs of RBI Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**171.** On April 8, according to the data with BSE, HDFC Ltd sold 4.96 Cr shares in Bandhan Bank through a bulk deal at ₹306.61 apiece. The share sale amounts to about 3.1% stake of HDFC in Bandhan Bank. As of December 31, 2021, HDFC Ltd held 15.93 Cr shares amounting to 9.89% stake in Bandhan Bank. {Read more} Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd sold 4.96 Cr shares (about 3.1% stake) in Bandhan Bank through a bulk deal at ₹306.61 apiece
- HQs of Bandhan Bank Kolkata, WB | MD & CEO Chandra Shekhar Ghosh | Tagline "Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai"
- HQs of HDFC Ltd Mumbai, MH | Chairman Deepak Parekh | VC & CEO Keki Mistry

**172.** On April 7, Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd signed a definitive agreement to acquire IDFC Asset Management Company and IDFC AMC Trustee Company for Rs 4,500 Cr. This is the second big acquisition in the mutual fund space in recent times after HSBC Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd's buyout of L&T Investment Management Ltd from L&T Finance for \$425 million in December, 2021. {Read more}

**Key Points:** 

- Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd to acquire IDFC AMC & IDFC AMC Trustee Company for Rs 4,500 Cr
- HQs of Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd Kolkata, West Bengal

**173.** On April 8, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) set up two separate expert groups to examine the roles, eligibility criteria and functions of sponsors and trustees at asset management companies (AMCs). The working group on sponsors will be chaired by A. Balasubramanian (MD & CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC). Meanwhile, the working group on MF trustees will be chaired by Manoj Vaish (Independent Trustee of Mirae MF). {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- SEBI set up 2 separate expert groups to examine the roles, eligibility criteria & functions of sponsors/trustees at AMCs
- The working group on sponsors will be chaired by A. Balasubramanian
- The working group on MF trustees will be chaired by Manoj Vaish
- HQs of SEBI Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in 1992

**174.** On April 9, Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank, P. Gopi Krishna launched a new deposit scheme of the bank, "Vikas Siri Sampat-1111". The scheme is of a tenor of 1,111 days with interest rate of 5.70% for general public and 6.20% for senior citizens. Under the scheme, a minimum of ₹10,000 and a maximum of ₹2 Cr can be deposited. {Read more} Key Points:

- KVGB launched a new deposit scheme called "Vikas Siri Sampat-1111"
- Under the scheme: minimum deposit ₹10,000 | maximum deposit ₹2 Cr
- HQs of KVGB Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman P. Gopi Krishna | Sponsored by Canara Bank

**175.** On April 11, in its first bi-monthly monetary policy meeting for FY 2023, the RBI announced a new tool to absorb excess liquidity from the system - Standing Deposit Facility (SDF). Through this new tool the central bank can absorb excess liquidity from the commercial banks, which is currently hovering at about Rs 8.5 lakh Cr, without an exchange of collateral like government-backed securities (G-Secs). Interest rate for SDF is fixed at 3.75%, 40 basis points higher than reverse repo rate. The idea about SDF was initially introduced nearly 8 years ago by a monetary policy committee led by Urijit Patel. Moreover, the RBI extended the rationalised home loan norms by another year till March 31, 2023 to facilitate a higher credit flow of individual housing loans. The RBI also proposed reduction of Net Worth criteria for Non-Banking operating units from Rs 100 Cr to Rs 25 Cr. {Read more}



- RBI announced a new tool to absorb excess liquidity from the system Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)
- Interest rate for SDF is fixed at 3.75% | Excess liquidity at present Rs 8.5 lakh Cr
- RBI extended the rationalised home loan norms by another year till March 31, 2023
- RBI also proposed reduction of Net Worth criteria for Non-Banking operating units from Rs 100 Cr to Rs 25 Cr
- HQs of RBI Mumbai, MH | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

## **Defence Affairs**

**176.** On April 7, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the third positive indigenisation list of defence equipment that will be put under import restrictions. This third list builds on the first list of 101 items and the second list of 108 items, promulgated earlier in 2020 and 2021. The third list will consist of over 100 items, including complex equipment and systems. Orders worth more than Rs 2,10,000 Cr are likely to be placed on the Industry in the next 5 years as part of the items covered in the third list. {Read more}

#### Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh released the 3<sup>rd</sup> positive indigenisation list of defence equipment comprising over 100 items
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

**177.** April 6, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the "Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC)" at Air Headquarters in New Delhi. The conference was attended by Minister of State for Defence, Ajay Bhatt and Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar. The theme for this Conference is "Optimising Human Resources". To provide a boost to the growing indigenous drone industry, Raksha Mantri launched the "Mehar Baba Competition - II". The competition is aimed at developing technology for a "Swarm Drone based system to detect Foreign Objects on Aircraft Operating Surfaces". {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh inaugurated the "Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC)" in New Delhi
- Theme "Optimising Human Resources"
- Rajnath Singh launched the "Mehar Baba Competition II" to boost drone industry

**178.** On April 9, Defence Ministry decided that 25% of the domestic capital procurement and acquisition budget amounting to Rs 21,149.47 Cr, will be allocated for domestic private industry in FY 2022-23. This is in continuation of the government's efforts to promote private industry, MSMEs and start-ups in the defence production ecosystem. It has also been decided that an amount of Rs 1,500 Cr will be earmarked for procurement from start-ups from within the allocations for domestic capital procurement. {Read more}



- Defence Ministry earmarked 25% of domestic capital procurement budget for Private Industry to promote start-ups
- Rs 1500 Cr earmarked for procurement from start-ups from within the allocations for domestic capital procurement
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

## Sports & Games

**179.** As per the resolution of COP7 held in Paris, on 29-31 September 2019, the State Parties had agreed to contribute 1% of the regular budget of the respective nation to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. In 2022, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports released an enhanced contribution of \$72,124 to the "UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport" which is twice the agreed value. This was the first step toward the preparation of the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

• Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (India) – contributed \$72,124 to "UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport"

State Parties at COP7 had agreed to contribute 1% of the regular budget of the respective nation

**180.** On April 6, the prestigious "12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2022" began in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The tournament will be closely watched by national selectors from Hockey India where top performers will stand a chance to find a place in the national program for the Indian Men's Hockey Team. The 12-day tournament will witness 28 teams vie for top honours. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2022 began in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital Bhopal | CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

## **Science & Technology**

**181.** On April 2, Researchers from Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), in collaboration with those from France, have discovered a faint star-forming galaxy around 136 light years away, using the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) on-board India's only space observatory Astrosat. The galaxy is named "UVIT J2022". {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- IIA (India) + France = discovered a faint star-forming galaxy named "UVIT J2022" using 'Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope'
- France Paris Euro | President Emmanuel Macron | PM Jean Castex

**182.** On April 8, SpaceX launched "Axion-1(Ax-1)" to the International Space Station (ISS) through its Falcon 9 rocket. It's the first-ever fully private crewed mission to launch to the orbiting lab. This is also the first commercial mission to the ISS. {Read more}

**Key Points:** 



- SpaceX launched "Axion-1(Ax-1)" to the International Space Station (ISS) through its Falcon 9 rocket
- HQs of SpaceX California, U.S. | Founder & CEO Elon Musk | Founded in 2002

**183.** Researchers at the IIT Madras launched India's first polycentric prosthetic knee named "Kadam". It is the indigenously developed prosthetic knee aims to improve the quality of life of above-knee amputees. The product was developed by a team at TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at IIT-M, in association with the Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India. Kadam will help above-knee amputees to walk with a comfortable gait, provides stability reduces risk of stumbling. {Read more}

**Key Points:** 

- IIT Madras launched India's first polycentric prosthetic knee named "Kadam"
- Jointly developed by = IIT-M + SBMT + Mobility India
- Director of IIT Madras V. Kamakoti

**184.** On April 8, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on April 08, 2022. The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds. The range of SFDR is 350 Km whereas its maximum speed is Mach 4.5. The SFDR has been developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- DRDO successfully flight tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur
- Range 350 Km | Maximum speed Mach 4.5 | Developed by DRDL-DRDO
- HQs of DRDO New Delhi | Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in 1958

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**185.** On April 5, Bengali author Amar Mitra won the prestigious "O Henry Prize" for short fiction. He received the award for his short story, 'Gaonburo', which was translated into English (The Old Man Of Kusumpur) earlier. The translated work was published in an American magazine in 2020. O Henry Prize is awarded for short stories. The author has earlier received the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award from the Government of India and Bankim Puroshkar, in West Bengal, among many other recognitions for his contribution in Bengali literature. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- Amar Mitra (Bengali author) won the "O Henry Prize" for 'short fiction' for his short story 'Gaonburo'
- 'Gaonburo' was translated into English as 'The Old Man Of Kusumpur'
- West Bengal: Capital Kolkata | CM Mamta Banerjee | Governor Jagdeep Dhankar





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## Schemes & Initiatives

**186.** April 8, 2022 marked the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)". The scheme was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, for providing loans up to Rs 10 Lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small, or microenterprises. More than 34 Cr 42 lakh loans for an amount of Rs 18.60 lakh Cr have been sanctioned since launch of PMMY. Around 68% loans of the total number of loans have been sanctioned to Women Entrepreneurs. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- April 8, 2022 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)"
- PMMY was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2015 | Loan amount up to Rs 10 Lakh

**187.** On April 8, in the line with the vision of PM Narendra Modi to encourage the talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities, Airport Authority of India (AAI) launched the initiative "AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of The Region) to allocate space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- AAI launched the initiative "AVSAR" to provide SHGs an opportunity to showcase local products at its airports
- AVSAR Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region
- HQs of AAI New Delhi | Chairman Sanjeev Kumar



**188.** CRPF Valour Day, also known as Shaurya Diwas, is celebrated every year to commemorate the exceptionally aweinspiring battle at Sardar Post in Rann of Kuchh, Gujarat. The post was guarded by two battalions of CRPF - roughly 150 soldiers. 2022 marked the 57<sup>th</sup> CRPF Valour Day. {Read more}

## **Key Points:**

- April 9 57<sup>th</sup> "Valour Day" celebrated by CRPF (also known as 'Shaurya Diwas')
- HQs of CRPF New Delhi | DG Kuldiep Singh | Formed 1939 | Motto "Service & Loyalty"

**189.** On April 8, Army Ordnance Corps (AOC) units of Southern Command celebrated their 247<sup>th</sup> Corps Day. The 'Board of Ordnance' was formed to ensure systematic distribution of weapons, ammunition and equipment to the British Army. Over the years, the Board of Ordnance underwent number of transformations and in 1922 it came to be known as the Indian Army Ordnance Corps. Once India became a Republic in 1950, the prefix 'Indian' was dropped and the organisation has been known as the Army Ordnance Corps ever since. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- April 8 247<sup>th</sup> Corps Day of Army Ordnance Corps (AOC) units of Southern Command
- HQs of Southern Command Pune, Maharashtra | Present Commander Lt. Gen. Jai Singh Nain

**190.** "World Homeopathy Day" is observed on April 10 every year to celebrate the contribution of homeopathy to the world of medicine. The day marks the 266<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of famous German physician Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann. Hahnemann is known as the founding father of this branch of medicine. {Read more}



- April 10 "World Homeopathy Day" (266<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann)
- Founder/Father of Homeopathy Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann

## **Books & Authors**

**191.** HarperCollins India released a book titled "The Maverick Effect: The Inside Story of India's IT Revolution" written by NASSCOM's founding member and its first elected chairman, Harish Mehta. The Maverick Effect is a definitive and authoritative biography of NASSCOM.

**Key Points:** 

- "The Maverick Effect: The Inside Story of India's IT Revolution" book written by Harish Mehta
- 'The Maverick Effect' is a definitive & authoritative biography of NASSCOM | Publisher HarperCollins India

## **Meetings, Conferences & Summits**

**192.** On April 9, the 2-day Southern Region Review meeting - "Ayushman Sangam", organised by the National Health Authority in Tamil Nadu's Mahabalipuram on April 7 and 8 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the event covering the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. During the event, the National Health Authority (NHA) launched a new version of the "Health Benefit Package, 2022", under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY), adding 365 new procedures which took the total to 1,949. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- 2-day Southern Region Review meeting "Ayushman Sangam" in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu organised by NHA
- NHA launched a new version of the "Health Benefit Package, 2022" under the 'AB PMJAY'
- HQs of NHA New Delhi | CEO Ram Sevak Sharma | Founded in 2018

**193.** India and the US held their 4<sup>th</sup> annual 2+2 dialogue in Washington on April 11. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation. This will be first 2+2 plus dialogue since the Biden administration came to power in the US. The 3<sup>rd</sup> dialogue was held in Delhi in 2020. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- India + US = held the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 2+2 dialogue in Washington, US
- Indian delegation led by = S. Jaishankar + Rajnath Singh
- US Washington, D.C. US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP Kamala Harris

**194.** On occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a 2-day "Conference and Exhibition on the National Calendar of India" was held on April 22-23, 2022 at Ujjain and Dongla, Madhya Pradesh. To promote and popularise the conference, the curtain-raiser programme was held at IIT Guwahati, Assam. 'Indian National Calendar', is a scientific expression of India's identity and was adopted constitutionally by our parliament in 1957. {Read more}



- 2-day "Conference and Exhibition on the National Calendar of India" held at Ujjain & Dongla, Madhya Pradesh
- Curtain-raiser programme was held at IIT Guwahati, Assam
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital Bhopal | CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**195.** On April 8, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare reported to the Rajya Sabha that India has 1.96 nurses per 1,000 population at present. As per Indian Nursing Council records, there are around 33.41 lakh registered nursing personnel. The doctor-population ratio is 1:834 in India assuming 80% availability of registered allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Nurse-population ratio in India 1.96:1000
- Doctor-population ratio in India 1:834

**196.** According to "Global Wind Report for 2022" published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), wind energy installations every year across the world will quadruple within this decade from the 94 GW installed in 2021, to meet the global climate targets. In India, more than 1.4 GW of wind was installed in 2021, exceeding the 1.1 GW of installations during the previous year. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of installing 5 GW of offshore capacity by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- "Global Wind Report for 2022" published by Global Wind Energy Council (Brussels, Belgium)
- Globally, wind energy installations in 2021 94 GW
- In India, wind energy installations in 2021 over 1.4 GW
- MNRE' target: To install 5 GW of offshore capacity by 2022 & 30 GW by 2030

## **Amount & Agreements**

**197.** On April 7, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and a French merchant firm Louis Dreyfus Company B.V. (LDC) signed a loan of up to \$100 million to help smallholder farmers recover from the economic challenges caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and improve their resilience to climate change impacts. The loan will support LDC's operations in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam. {Read more} Key Points:

- ADB + Louis Dreyfus Company = a loan of up to \$100 million to help smallholder farmers recover from the pandemic
- HQs of ADB Mandaluyong, Philippines | President Masatsugu Asakawa | Members 68 | Established in 1966



## Ordinance, Bills & Acts

**198.** 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

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**199.** On April 8, Oil India Limited (OIL) signed an incubation agreement with the Start-up Ohm Clean Tech Pvt Ltd for Design, Integration and Development of 9-M Hydrogen Fuel Cell powered e-Bus, and a Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier (LOHC) solution. The Start-up will be mentored and nurtured under the IIT Guwahati. The OIL sponsors eligible Start-ups under its scheme "SNEH" (Start-up Nurturing, Enabling & Handholding). {Read more}

- OIL + Ohm Clean Tech = an incubation agreement for promoting Hydrogen mobility solutions in Northeast
- The Start-up will be mentored and nurtured under IIT Guwahati Bank
- "SNEH" (Start-up Nurturing, Enabling & Handholding) scheme belongs to Oil India Ltd
- HQs of OIL Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CMD Sushil Chandra Mishra (till June 30, 2022 | Later Ranjit Rath)

**200.** On April 8, An MoU was signed between the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the ISRO for technical collaboration. NRSC will be developing Bhuvan-Aadhar portal providing information and locations of the aadhaar centres across India. The UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the "Aadhaar Act, 2016" on 12 July, 2016 under MeitY. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- UIDAI (MeitY) + NRSC (ISRO) = an MoU for technical collaboration
- NRSC will develop 'Bhuvan-Aadhar' portal
- HQs of UIDAI New Delhi | CEO Saurabh Garg | Founded on January 28, 2009
- Location of NRSC Hyderabad, Telangana



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