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National & States Affairs

201. On April 8, KVIC launched “Banarasi Pashmina” to boost self-sustainability & Artisanal Creativity. This is for the first time that Pashmina products are being produced outside the region of Leh-Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. KVIC will sell the “Made-in-Varanasi” Pashmina products through its showrooms, outlets and through its online portal. Pashmina production in Varanasi alone would add nearly Rs 25 Cr to Khadi’s turnover in Varanasi. Pashmina weaving in Varanasi would ensure round-the-year livelihood to women artisans in Leh-Ladakh where spinning activities are suspended for nearly half the year due to the extreme cold. To facilitate this, KVIC has also set up a Pashmina wool processing unit in Leh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – launched “Banarasi Pashmina” to boost self-sustainability & Artisanal Creativity
- KVIC – set up a Pashmina wool processing unit in Leh
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Founded in – 1956

202. On April 11, indigenously designed and developed, three different types of Loitering Munitions were successfully tested in Ladakh at over 15,000 feet, with the Army Design Bureau facilitating trials at Nubra Valley to rate performance and safety standards. The three munitions - two fixed wing variants and a hexacopter - have been developed by Economic Explosives Ltd in partnership with Bangalore-based start-up Z Motion Autonomous System Pvt Ltd. The defence ministry has also placed loitering munitions on a recently released ‘import ban’ list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 different types of Loitering Munitions were successfully tested at Nubra Valley in Ladakh at over 15,000 feet
- Developed by = Economic Explosives Ltd + Z Motion Autonomous System
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

203. On April 7, the central government extended Rs 40 Cr relief to the Dalai Lama’s Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for another 5 years up to 2025-26. This scheme was extended after the Galwan incident in June 2020 where 20 soldiers were killed in violent clashes with the PLA in Ladakh. The scheme provides for an annual grant of Rs 8 Cr to the CTRC to meet the administrative expenses of settlement offices and social welfare expenses for Tibetan refugees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt extended Rs 40 Cr relief to the Dalai Lama’s Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) till 2025-26
- The scheme provides for an annual grant of Rs 8 Cr to the CTRC

204. On April 6, Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inspected the 564 Minimal Liquid Discharge (MLD) Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) which is being constructed as part of the Yamuna cleaning process. Okhla STP is the biggest sewage treatment plant in Asia. The total sanction cost of the Okhla STP project is ₹665.78 Cr where 85% of the cost is borne by the central government under the Namami Gange Programme and 15% by the state government. It has been decided to expedite the STP work in Delhi from December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat – inspected 564 Minimal Liquid Discharge (MLD) Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP)
- Okhla STP – a part of Yamuna cleaning process | Location – Delhi | Cost – ₹665.78 Cr (Asia’s biggest STP)



205. On April 7, India and Australia set up a Young Defence Officers' Exchange Programme in memory of late chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat and named it after him. Hashtags #Outcomes #AusIndSummit were also used for the programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Australia = set up a Young Defence Officers' Exchange Programme in memory of General Bipin Rawat
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Scott Morrison](#)

206. On April 9, the 20th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held in Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav. For the first time in history the NTCA meeting happened outside the national capital. On the occasion around 100 air guns were surrendered by the local villagers. Arunachal Pradesh in March 2021, had started the Air Gun Surrender Abhiyaan. The Minister released standard operating procedure for tiger reintroduction and supplementation in wild, forest fire audit protocol for tiger reserves, technical manual on MEE of Tiger reserves in India prepared by NTCA. The NTCA has prepared a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) titled, 'Tiger Reintroduction and Supplementation in Wild Protocol' to deal with the reintroduction and supplementation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20th Meeting of NTCA – held in Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh (first time outside Delhi)
- Meeting was chaired by – Bhupender Yadav
- [Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav](#) | [Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey](#)
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar](#) | [CM – Pema Khandu](#) | [Governor – B. D. Mishra](#)

207. The National Health Authority (NHA) launched the Unified Health Interface (UHI) under the “Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)”. UHI is an open network designed to enable interoperable digital health service delivery like tele-consultations. UHI will be powered by decentralised health protocols (DHP) built by an open community of developers and deployed on a gateway built by NHA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA – launched the Unified Health Interface (UHI) under “Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)”
- [HQs of NHA – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Ram Sevak Sharma](#) | [Founded in – 2018](#)

208. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is celebrating “Pariksha Parv-4.0” from April 11, 2022 to May 31, 2022. NCPCR has been celebrating exams with its campaign ‘Pariksha Parv’ since 2019. ‘Pariksha Parv 4.0’ is an endeavor for providing a platform for students, parents and teachers to share their thoughts and get guidance and important tips from the experts. “SAMVEDNA” (1800-121-2830) is a toll-free Tele counseling service of NCPCR by trained Counsellors for COVID related stress which will now be extended for students to cope up with exam and result related queries, stress and anxiety. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCPCR is celebrating “Pariksha Parv-4.0” from April 11 to May 31
- “SAMVEDNA” – a toll-free Tele counseling service of NCPCR
- [HQs of NCPCR – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Priyank Kanongoo](#)



209. On April 8, All India Radio News launched a new weekly interactive programme, “Abhyaas” for Competitive Examinations. It is aimed at reaching out to students and job seekers preparing for competitive examinations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIR News – launched a new weekly interactive programme, “Abhyaas” for Competitive Examinations
- HQs of AIR – New Delhi | DG – N. Venudhar Reddy

210. On April 8, Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah inaugurated “Seema Darshan Project” at Nadabet located on the Indo-Pak border in Banaskantha District of Gujarat. ‘Seemadarshan Project’ is initiated with the aim to provide an opportunity to the people to visualize the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated “Seema Darshan Project” on Indo-Pak border at Nadabet, Banaskantha, Gujarat
- ‘Seemadarshan Project’ provides an opportunity to the people to visualize the life and work of the BSF personnel
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”

211. Kangra tea is likely to get European Union’s geographical indication (GI) tag. Tea cultivation and development in the Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh has improved constantly since April 1999 when the industries department transferred the subject to the agriculture department. In 2005, the Kangra tea had received the Indian GI tag. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Kangra tea’ (Himachal Pradesh) – to get European Union’s GI tag
- Kangra tea had received the Indian GI tag in 2005
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

International Affairs

212. Indonesia, the world’s largest producer and exporter of palm oil is facing domestic shortages, leading to price controls and export curbs. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has estimated the archipelago’s palm oil production for 2021-22 (October-September) at 45.5 million tonnes (mt). That’s almost 60% of the total global output. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indonesia, the world’s largest producer & exporter of palm oil, is facing domestic shortages of palm oil
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

213. On April 7, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) announced to divest its entire stake of 4% in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company for nearly Rs 4 Cr. ISARC is India’s first Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC). The ARC is sponsored by SIDBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoM – announced to divest its entire stake of 4% in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company for nearly Rs 4 Cr
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”



214. On April 11, Tata AIA Life Insurance tied up with Common Service Centres (CSC) under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, to provide access to about 95% gram panchayats in India. With this tie up, the company will engage into the network of over 4 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata AIA Life Insurance + CSC = partnership to provide access of insurance products to about 95% gram panchayats
- HQs of Tata AIA Life – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Naveen Tahilyani

215. On April 8, Union Cabinet approved the proposal for signing a bilateral MoU between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Regulatory Commission, Mongolia (FRC) to contribute towards strengthening the information sharing framework leading to effective enforcement of securities laws. The MoU will also help in establishing a technical assistance programme which would benefit the Authorities by way of consultations on matters relating to capital markets, capacity building activities and training programmes for the staff. Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC) is a parliamentary authority mandated to supervise and regulate the non-bank sector; including the insurance and securities markets, and participants of the microfinance sector. The FRC is responsible for providing stable and sound financial markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI + FRC (Mongolia) = bilateral MoU to contribute towards strengthening the information sharing framework
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

216. On April 12, Mashreq NEO, a full-service digital bank from UAE-based Mashreq Bank, announced a strategic partnership with Federal Bank to enable Mashreq Neo's UAE-based Indian customers open a Non-Resident account with Federal Bank in India, instantly via the Neo app. The new initiative leverages the Open Banking construct to simplify the customer onboarding journey and deliver real-time account opening experience for customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mashreq NEO + Federal Bank = partnership to enable its UAE-based Indian customers open a NR a/c with Federal Bank
- HQs of Mashreq Bank – Dubai, UAE | CEO – Ahmed Abdelaal
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

Defence Affairs

217. On April 7, Pakistan's Army conducted a successful flight test of the surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile 'Shaheen-III' which can strike targets up to 2,750 kms, bringing a number of Indian cities under its range. It is solid-fuelled and equipped with the Post-Separation Altitude Correction (PSAC) system. Solid fuel is suited for rapid response capabilities, while the PSAC feature provides it the ability to adjust the warhead trajectory for greater accuracy and evading anti-ballistic missile defence systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – conducted a successful flight test of the surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile 'Shaheen-III'
- Range – 2,750 kms | solid-fuelled & equipped with the Post-Separation Altitude Correction (PSAC) system
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Shehbaz Sharif | President – Arif Alvi

218. On April 9, Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems were successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at Pokhran Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HMRL), another Pune-based laboratory of DRDO. The enhanced 'Pinaka Mk-1' has a range of 45 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO + Indian Army = flight-tested "Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System" & Pinaka Area Denial Munition Rocket Systems – at Pokhran, Rajasthan
- Developed by = ARDE + HMRL (DRDO's lab, both based in Pune) | Enhanced range – 45 km
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

219. On April 10, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned a squadron of Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) MK-III in Bhubaneswar, Odisha to strengthen maritime security. ALH MK III choppers are fitted with modern surveillance radar and electro-optical equipment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICG commissioned a squadron of "ALH-Dhruv MK-III" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | DG – Virender Singh Pathania | Founded in – 1977

Sports & Games

220. On April 9, Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal became the world mixed doubles champions after the pair defeated England's Alison Waters and Adrian Waller in the final of the WSF World Doubles Squash Championships in Glasgow. India is the first team in Asia to win a World Doubles Squash Championships title. Ghosal and Pallikal earlier reached the final of the tournament in 2016, where they lost to New Zealand's Joell King and Paul Coll. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dipika Pallikal Karthik + Saurav Ghosal = won world mixed doubles final of WSF World Doubles Squash Championships
- 'WSF World Doubles Squash Championships' took place in – Glasgow
- HQs of SRFI (Squash Rackets Federation of India) – Chennai | President – Debendranath Sarangi

221. On April 12, Indian ice-speed-skating athlete from Gujarat, Vishwaraj Jadeja recently became the first Indian athlete to have skated 100 kilometres on the Frozen Sea in Sweden, as part of the Sea Ice Classic, Lulea. It was the first time an Indian has attempted and finished such a feat. His finish time was 4 hours 53 minutes which was right on top of the timesheets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vishwaraj Jadeja (Ice-skater – Gujarat) – became the 1st Indian athlete to have skated 100 kms on Frozen Sea in Sweden

222. On April 10, Charles Leclerc claimed his second win of the Formula One season for Ferrari with a pole-to-flag victory at the Australian Grand Prix. It was his fourth career win. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari – Monaco) – won the Formula One (F1) "Australian Grand Prix"





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Persons in News

223. On April 9, American Actor Will Smith was banned by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences from attending the Oscars for 10 years. This was done as a disciplinary measure after the actor Will Smith slapped Chris Rock at the 94th Academy Awards 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Will Smith – banned by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences from attending the Oscars for 10 years
- Reason for ban: Will Smith slapped Chris Rock at the 94th Academy Awards 2022

Science & Technology

224. On April 7, China successfully launched “Gaofen-3 03” - a new Earth observation satellite which will become part of its land-sea radar satellite constellation and capture fine-resolution images to help Beijing safeguard its maritime rights and interests. The satellite was launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre by a Long March-4C rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – successfully launched “Gaofen-3 03” - a new Earth observation satellite
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

225. On April 11, the rare butterfly ‘Palmking’ was spotted for the first time in Tamil Nadu by the members of the Rhopalocera and Odonata Association of Rajapalayam (ROAR). The unique woody species was earlier seen only in Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Palmking’, a rare butterfly – spotted for the first time in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

226. On April 13, the Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) “Helina”, the helicopter-launched version of the ‘Nag’ missile, was again tested, this time in the northern high altitude mountain regions in the desert regions of Pokhran. This third generation ‘fire-and-forget’ class missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The test was jointly conducted by the DRDO, Indian Army & Indian Air Force. The missile has a maximum range of 7Kms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Helina” an Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) – flight-tested by DRDO, Army & IAF in Pokhran, Rajasthan
- The missile is developed by – DRDO | maximum range – 7 km
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

227. On April 8, SpaceX made history by launching the “Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1)”, the first all private astronaut mission to the International Space Station. A ‘SpaceX Falcon 9’ rocket propelled the Dragon Endeavour spacecraft carrying 4 members of ‘Ax-1’ into orbit. Axiom Space astronauts lifted off from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Axiom Space astronauts are expected to spend about 10 days in orbit before a return to Earth. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched the “Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1)”, the first all private astronaut mission to the ISS from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, US
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

Appointments & Resignations

228. On April 7, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla is appointed as Chief Coordinator for the G20 Summit, which will be hosted by India in 2023. This is a newly created role for organising the summit, which will include both substantive aspects as well as logistics. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will remain the G20 sherpa. Shringla, who was Foreign Secretary of India till April 30, 2022, will be succeeded by Vinay Mohan Kwatra. [{Read more}](#)

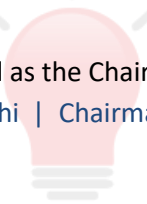
Key Points:

- Harsh Vardhan Shringla – appointed as Chief Coordinator for the G20 Summit (to be hosted by India in 2023)
- Vinay Mohan Kwatra – appointed as new Foreign Secretary of India (replacing - Harsh Vardhan Shringla)
- G20 sherpa – Piyush Goyal

229. On April 8, currently a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Dr. Manoj Soni is appointed as the Chairman of the UPSC, the country's premier government recruiting agency. Soni has been associated with the Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Soni – appointed as the Chairman of the UPSC
- HQs of UPSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Manoj Soni



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Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

230. On April 7, A haunting image of red dresses hung on crosses along a roadside, with a rainbow in the background, commemorating children who died at a residential school created to assimilate Indigenous children in Canada won the prestigious World Press Photo award. The image was one of a series of the Kamloops Residential School shot by Canadian photographer Amber Bracken for The New York Times. Australian photographer Matthew Abbott won the Photo Story of the Year prize for a series of images. The Long-Term Project award went to Lalo de Almeida of Brazil. Bram Janssen of The Associated Press won the Stories category in Asia with a series of photos from a Kabul cinema and AP photographer Dar Yasin earned an honourable mention for photos from Kashmir titled “Endless War”. Yasin, together with Mukhtar Khan and Channi Anand, won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography for their coverage of the conflict in Indian-controlled Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amber Bracken ([Canada](#)) – won World Press Photo award for – a haunting image of red dresses hung on crosses along a roadside, with a rainbow in the background
- Matthew Abbott ([Australia](#)) – won the Photo Story of the Year
- Lalo de Almeida ([Brazil](#)) – won the Long-Term Project award
- Bram Janssen – won the Stories category in Asia
- Dar Yasin – was given the honourable mention for photos from Kashmir titled “Endless War”



231. On April 7, Author Geetanjali Shree's novel "Tomb of Sand" became the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. Shree's book, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell will compete with five other titles for the prestigious 50,000 pounds literary prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator. The international prize is awarded every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland. The winner for 2022 will be announced at a ceremony in London on 26 May. The other five titles in the shortlist announced at the London Book Fair include: 'Cursed Bunny' by Bora Chung, translated by Anton Hur from Korean; 'A New Name: Septology VI-VII' by Jon Fosse, translated by Damion Geetanjali Shree's Searls from Norwegian; 'Heaven' by Mieko Kawakami, translated by Samuel Bett and David Boyd from Japanese; 'Elena Knows' by Claudia Pineiro, translated by Frances Riddle from Spanish; and 'The Books of Jacob' by Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft from Polish. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Novel "Tomb of Sand" – first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize
- The novel is authored by – Geetanjali Shree | Translated into English by – Daisy Rockwell

232. On April 9, the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowships along with Akademi Awards for 2018 and 62nd National Exhibition of Art Awards 2021. He presented the honours to various artists for their contribution to the field of performing arts and fine arts. Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for 2018 was given to 4 artists and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards were given to 40 other artists. Lalit Kala Akademi Awards 2021 were given to 23 personalities which comprise 3 fellows. Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous Body under Ministry of Culture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented:
 - Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for 2018 – to 4 artists
 - Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards – to 40 artists
 - Lalit Kala Akademi Awards 2021– to 20 artists
 - Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowships – to 3 artists
- HQs of Sangeet Natak Akademi – New Delhi | Chairman – Uma Nanduri (functions under Ministry of Culture)

233. On April 12, the largest iron ore producer of India, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), under Ministry of Steel awarded 1 Gold and 1 Silver award at the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards recently conducted by SKOCH, New Delhi. The theme for the SKOCH Summit was "State of BFSI & PSUs". NMDC won the Gold Award in the category 'Social Responsibility' for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi' and the Silver Award in the category 'Digital Inclusion' for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMDC – awarded 1 Gold & 1 Silver award at the 80th SKOCH Summit 2022
- Theme of the summit – "State of BFSI & PSUs"
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

234. On April 7, Meghalaya Governor Satyapal Malik and former Research and Analysis Wing Director A. S. Dulat were honoured with the "Sant Namdeo National Award" by Pune-based non-government organisation Sarhad. The awards were given away by former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Satyapal Malik + A. S. Dulat (former RAW Chief) = honoured with the “Sant Namdeo National Award”
- Award given by – Pune-based non-government organisation Sarhad

Schemes & Initiatives

235. On April 11, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched a dedicated portal of Mission Youth in collaboration with Vision India, to connect the youth of J&K with the industry. The dedicated portal, “AVSAR” - ‘Connect to Opportunities Initiative’ aims to provide more than 10,000 job opportunities to the youth in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Sinha (J&K) – launched a dedicated portal “AVSAR” to connect the youth of J&K with the industry
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

Important Days & Dates

236. The Punjab government announced April 8 as a gazetted holiday on the birth anniversary of Guru Nabha Dass, a 16th century saint, taking it out from the list of restricted holidays. Guru Nabha Dass was born on April 8, 1537 at village Bhadrachalam on the bank of Godavari river in Khammam district, which falls in the present day Telangana. Guru Nabha Dass belonged to Mahasha also known as doom or dumna community. People from this community are also known as Nabhadassias. Guru Nabha Dass wrote ‘Bhagatmal’ in 1585. It has the life history of around 200 saints. He died in 1643. Kullu Dussehra is celebrated for a week on the directions of Guru Nabha Dass. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – announced April 8 as a gazetted holiday on the birth anniversary of Guru Nabha Dass
- Guru Nabha Dass – born in Khammam district, Telangana | Died in – 1643 | He wrote – ‘Bhagatmal’ in 1585
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

237. National Safe Motherhood Day is observed every year on April 11. It is aimed at raising awareness about the care that a pregnant woman needs before, during, and after childbirth. April 11 is also the Birth Anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 11 – National Safe Motherhood Day
- April 11 – Birth Anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi

238. A two-day scientific convention was organised in New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Ayush on the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day (WHD) on 9th & 10th April 2022. World Homoeopathy Day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann. In 2022, his 267th birth anniversary was marked. The theme of this scientific convention was “Homoeopathy: People’s Choice for Wellness”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- April 10 – World Homoeopathy Day
- Ministry of Ayush – organized a two-day scientific convention on 9th & 10th April
- World Homoeopathy Day – birth anniversary of founder of Homoeopathy (Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann)
- Theme of the convention – “Homoeopathy: People’s Choice for Wellness”
- [Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai](#)

239. “International Day for Street Children” was observed on April 12. On this occasion, members of Karunalaya Children Leaders’ Council presented a set of 9 recommendations comprising concerns related to health, education, protection and housing that they face as street children. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 12 – International Day for Street Children

240. The United Nations General Assembly established April 12 to be the International Day of Human Space Flight in a resolution passed on April 7, 2011. Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made the first human space journey on April 12, 1961 aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 12 – International Day of Human Space Flight (anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin in 1961)

241. World Parkinson’s Disease Day is observed annually on April 11. Parkinson’s disease is described as a movement disorder that impacts the nervous system. In 2022, the theme is “Integrated Healthcare”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 11 – World Parkinson’s Disease Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Integrated Healthcare”
- Parkinson’s disease impacts the ‘Nervous system’

Books & Authors

242. Vinod Rai’s book “Not Just a Nightwatchman - My innings in the BCCI” has been published by Rupa Publications. The book discuss various cricket related events. It delves into intrigue in the women’s team, too. It also details the fallout of allegations of sexual harassment levelled against the then BCCI CEO Rahul Johri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Not Just a Nightwatchman - My innings in the BCCI” book – authored by Vinod Rai
- Publisher – Rupa Publications



Ranks, Report & Surveys

243. On April 5, Forbes found 2,668 billionaires around the globe for the “2022 World’s Billionaires List”, down from a record 2,755 last year. Collectively, they’re worth \$12.7 trillion, down from a record \$13.1 trillion on the 2021 list. Elon Musk topped the World’s Billionaires list for the first time ever. As of March 11, Musk’s net worth was estimated at \$219 billion. He surpassed Jeff Bezos, who fell to No. 2 for the first time in 4 years due to a 3% drop in Amazon stock. French luxury goods tycoon Bernard Arnault remains the world’s third-richest person. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2022 World’s Billionaires List”:
- 1st - Elon Musk | 2nd - Jeff Bezos | 3rd - Bernard Arnault

244. On April 8, Mizoram has had the highest number of forest fire incidences in the last two decades, according to a study titled “Managing Forest Fires in a Changing Climate” by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). As per the study, more than 62% of Indian states are prone to high-intensity forest fires. The CEEW study also found that Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra are the most prone to high-intensity forest fire events caused by rapid change in climate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Managing Forest Fires in a Changing Climate” – released by CEEW
- Mizoram – had the highest number of forest fire incidences in the last two decades
- More than 62% of Indian states are prone to high-intensity forest fires
- HQs of CEEW – New Delhi | CEO – Arunabha Ghosh

245. Gujarat topped the NITI Aayog’s “State Energy and Climate Index-Round-1” among larger states. The index is aimed at ranking states and Union territories (UTs) on 6 parameters. Gujarat was followed by Kerala and Punjab. Among the smaller states, Goa topped the Aayog's index, followed by Tripura and Manipur. Based on the outcome of SECI Round-1 scores, states and UTs were categorised into three groups - front runners, achievers, and aspirants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State Energy and Climate Index-Round-1” – released by NITI Aayog
- Larger states: 1st - Gujarat, 2nd - Kerala, 3rd - Punjab
- Smaller states: 1st - Goa, 2nd - Tripura, 3rd - Manipur
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

Amount & Agreements

246. On April 11, Assam cabinet approved a Rs 3,800 Cr ‘Assam Health System Strengthening Project’ to upgrade the health infrastructure in the state to be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The government also sanctioned the escalated cost of Rs 530.41 Cr for construction of three medical colleges in the state. Besides, a ‘Swasthya Bhawan’ (administrative centre) for dedicated training-cum-monitoring will be constructed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam cabinet – approved a Rs 3,800 Cr ‘Assam Health System Strengthening Project’ to be funded by JICA
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

247. On April 7, Infosys and Rolls-Royce, inaugurated their joint 'Aerospace Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre' in Bengaluru, India. This centre has been established to provide high-end research and development (R&D) services integrated with advanced digital capabilities to Rolls-Royce's engineering and group business services from India. As part of this collaboration, Infosys and Rolls-Royce will combine their aerospace, engineering and digital services capabilities to explore opportunities for driving digital and engineering innovation and associated cost optimisation strategies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Infosys + Rolls-Royce = inaugurated joint 'Aerospace Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre' in – Bengaluru, India
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Salil Parekh | Founded in – 1981

248. In April 2022, President Ram Nath Kovind held delegation-level talks with his Turkmenistan counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at Oguzhar palace Ashgabat. The first MoU was signed between the Financial Monitoring Service at the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and the Financial Intelligence Unit of India. While the second MoU was signed on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management as well as in the field of Culture and Arts for the period 2022-2025. Meanwhile, the third MoU was signed between the Ministry of Sports and Youth Policy of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India on Cooperation in Youth Matters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind (India) + Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov (Turkmenistan) = held delegation-level talks
- First MoU – between Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan & Financial Intelligence Unit of India
- Second MoU – between India & Turkmenistan in the field of Disaster Management, Culture & Arts
- Third MoU – between Ministry of Sports & Youth Policy of Turkmenistan & Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports of India
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat | President – Serdar Berdimuhamedow

249. On April 12, in a historic move to realise the goal of making Jammu and Kashmir self-sufficient in power sector, Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL) and Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) signed a contract agreement for the turnkey execution of 850-MW Ratle Hydel Power Project in Chenab River Valley, Jammu & Kashmir within a stipulated timeframe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RHPCL + MEIL = a contract agreement for execution of 850 MW Ratle Hydel Power Project in Chenab River Valley, J&K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

250. SJVN (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam) Ltd signed an MoU with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMC) to develop Renewable Energy projects for Indian Railways. The signing of the MoU would usher in a new era of more efficient consumption of power in the Indian Railways, while also leading to more competitive tariffs for the overall benefit of consumers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SJVN Ltd + BHEL + REMC = an MoU to develop Renewable Energy projects for Indian Railways
- HQs of SJVN Ltd – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | CMD – Nand Lal Sharma
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal





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