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National & States Affairs

251. On April 11, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched 3 applications under the “Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)” as part of the ‘InTranSE- II’ program to improve India's traffic scenario. Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System (ODAWS), Bus Signal Priority System and Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC) software were developed as a joint initiative by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and IIT Madras. In around 84% of cases, ‘driver error’ was cited as the cause of the accident. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY launched 3 applications under the “Intelligent Transportation System” (developed by C-DAC & IIT Madras)
 - Onboard Driver Assistance & Warning System (ODAWS)
 - Bus Signal Priority System
 - Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC) software

252. On April 11, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched an India Alumni Portal, as a platform to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India. The portal is to be a single platform for all past and present foreign scholars to register, interact, maintain their Indian linkages and remain anchored India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICCR – launched an “India Alumni Portal” to connect with foreign students around the world
- HQs of ICCR – New Delhi | DG – Kumar Tuhin | President – Vinay Sahasrabuddhe | Founded in – 1950

253. On April 11, Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched “SVANidhi se Samriddhi” program in additional 126 cities across 14 States/UTs. ‘SVANidhi se Samriddhi’, an additional program of PMSVANidhi was launched on January 4, 2021 in 125 cities in Phase 1. MoHUA has been implementing ‘Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)’, a Central Sector Scheme since June, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Joshi – launched “SVANidhi se Samriddhi” program in additional 126 cities across 14 States/UTs
- ‘SVANidhi se Samriddhi’ program – launched in Jan, 2021
- About “PM SVANidhi” scheme:
 - Launched in June, 2020 by MoHUA
 - Affordable working capital loan of up to ₹10,000
 - An interest subsidy on regular repayment at 7%

254. On April 12, Organiko, a Delhi-based social enterprise, is setting up India’s first Conservation Park for Donkeys in Leh. The NGO is also trying to explore the economic prospects to help locals earn a livelihood. Donkeys in Ladakh are kiangs (Equus kiang), the largest wild ass species in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Organiko (Delhi) – is setting up India’s first Conservation Park for Donkeys in Leh, Ladakh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur



255. On April 12, Bengaluru became the first Indian city to get into the Global Silk City Network. West Bengal's Murshidabad district (known to produce fine silk in the over the past 300 years) may join the global silk city network in the next few years. The global Silk City network so far has 13 best silk-producing cities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bengaluru – became the first Indian city to get into the Global Silk City Network
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

256. Apple has started assembling its iPhone 13 in India at the Foxconn plant in Tamil Nadu. The Foxconn plant also manufactures the iPhone 12 and iPhone 11 in India. The move comes after the government introduced a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme that promotes the manufacturing and assembling of smartphones in the India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Apple – started assembling its iPhone 13 in India at the Foxconn plant – in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

International Affairs

257. On April 12, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partners of the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM) announced \$2.2 million in climate action grants for 22 local innovators across 19 countries, including India. The first round of funding through the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) window will enhance local climate action and accelerate the delivery of targets outlined in the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. AIM was launched by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner at the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP + partners of the AIM = announced \$2.2 million in Climate Action Grants across 19 countries
- Adaptation Innovation Marketplace: Launched by Achim Steiner (in Jan 2021)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

258. On April 11, for India's ambitious 'Bullet Train Project', high-speed E5 Shinkansen series trains from Japan will be modified for Indian conditions like temperature, dust and weight. As per officials, Japan will initially send 6 trains which are modified according to Indian specifications. The Shinkansen colloquially known in English as the 'bullet train', is a network of high-speed railway lines in Japan and they are built by Hitachi and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. They are capable of running at a speed of 320 kmph and are 3.35m wide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – will send 6 high-speed 'E5 Shinkansen series trains' to India after modifying according to Indian specifications
- The E5 series trains are built by = Hitachi + Kawasaki Heavy Industries
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

259. On April 12, Sri Lanka announced a 'pre-emptive default' on all its foreign debt totalling \$51 billion as a 'last resort' while the island nation struggles to cope with a grave economic crisis. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sri Lanka announced a 'pre-emptive default' on all its foreign debt totalling \$51 billion as a 'last resort'
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

260. On April 15, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) elected experts for its 16 subsidiary bodies. India got elected to 4 key bodies of the ECOSOC which are - Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, Commission for Social Development and Commission on Science & Technology for Development. The ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN System established by the UN Charter in 1945. It consists of 54 members of the United Nations elected by the UNGA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UN ECOSOC elected experts for its 16 subsidiary bodies
- India got elected to 4 key bodies of the ECOSOC
- HQs of ECOSOC – New York, US | President – Collen Vixen Kelapile | Established in – 1945 | Members – 54

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

261. On April 13, as per the RBI's guidelines on Scale Based Regulations for NBFCs, the Non-banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) in the Upper Layer and Middle Layer should put in place a board approved policy by April 1, 2023 and compliance function including the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) by October 1, 2023, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per the RBI's guidelines on Scale Based Regulations for NBFCs:
 - NBFCs in the Upper Layer & Middle Layer should place a Board Approved Policy – by April 1, 2023
 - NBFCs should have independent Compliance Function to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer – by October 1, 2023
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

262. In April 2022, the RBI decided to permit all banks to introduce card-less cash withdrawal facility across all banks' ATM networks using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). In addition to enhancing ease of transactions, the absence of the need for physical card for such transactions would help prevent frauds such as card skimming, card cloning, etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI decided to permit all banks to introduce card-less cash withdrawal facility at ATMs using UPI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

263. On April 12, Fino Payments Bank's board approved a strategic investment of up to 12.19% in New Delhi-based fintech Paysprint Pvt Ltd. This strategic investment is a first for Fino Payments Bank after its public listing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fino Payments Bank – to acquire 12.19% stake in Paysprint Pvt Ltd (New Delhi)
- HQs of Fino Payments Bank – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rishi Gupta



264. On April 13, Union Bank of India (UBI) announced to buy out the 75% stake (held jointly by BoB & IOB) in India International Bank Malaysia (IIBM), making it a 100% UBI unit. India International Bank was incorporated in Malaysia in August 2011 and commenced operations in July 2012. After Andhra Bank's merger into UBI in April 2020, the 25% stake (which was earlier held by Andhra Bank) was transferred to UBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI – to buy out the 75% stake (held jointly by BoB & IOB) in India International Bank Malaysia
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

265. On April 12, Punjab National Bank (PNB) celebrated its 128th foundation day. The great freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai ji (known as Sher-e-Punjab) had established Punjab National Bank in 1894 as the first ‘Swadeshi Bank’ after being influenced by the ‘Swadeshi’ movement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 12 – 128th foundation day of PNB
- Lala Lajpat Rai established PNB as the first ‘Swadeshi Bank’ in 1894

Defence Affairs

266. On April 11, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) signed a contract with Nigerian Army for imparting Phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter for six officers of Nigerian Army Aviation. The training is planned to be completed by December 2022. As part of the training, 70 hours flying training would be imparted for each Nigerian Army Aviation Officer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + Nigerian Army = a contract for imparting Phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter to 6 Nigerian officers
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhari

Sports & Games

267. On April 3, Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath won a silver medal after losing to Toma Junior Popov in the final of the men’s singles event at “Orleans Masters 2022” which took place in France. Moreover, Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam won bronze in Women’s doubles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mithun Manjunath (Indian shuttler) – won silver in Men’s Singles at “Orleans Masters 2022” held in France
- Toma Junior Popov (French shuttler) – won Gold in Men’s Singles
- Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam (Indian shuttlers) – won bronze in Women’s doubles

268. On April 12, Australian state of Victoria announced to host the “2026 Commonwealth Games”, with all sporting events taking place outside of the state capital Melbourne. The 2026 Games will be held in four regional hubs in the towns of Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Gippsland. It will be the sixth time that Australia has staged the Commonwealth Games and the second time in Victoria. The state has confirmed 16 sports for the Games so far. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2026 Commonwealth Games” – to be held in Victoria, Australia (in 4 regional hubs)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison



269. On April 12, Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the Indian Premier League's (IPL) 14-year history to "retire out". According to rules laid by the International Cricket Council (ICC), a batsman can choose to retire anytime during their innings when the "ball is dead" after informing the umpires. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. Ashwin – became the first player in the IPL's 14-year history to 'retire out'

270. On April 14, Young Indian Grandmaster (GM) Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa won the "Reykjavik Open Chess Tournament" with a victory against compatriot D. Gukesh in the final round. R. Pragganandhaa finished with 7.5 points from 9 rounds at the tournament held at Reykjavik, Iceland. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. Pragganandhaa – won the "Reykjavik Open Chess Tournament 2022" (defeating - D. Gukesh)

271. In April 2022, Govind Sahani (men's 48kg), Ananta Pralhad Chopde (men's 54kg) and Sumit Kundu (men's 75kg) won Gold medals at the "Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022" in Phuket. Indian boxers finished the tournament with 10 medals - 3 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian boxers won 10 medals at "Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022" (3 Gold + 4 Silver + 3 Bronze)

Persons in News

272. In April 2022, Bloomberg Billionaires Index reported that Gautam Adani's net worth had reached \$100 billion, an accomplishment that made the industrialist the only Indian member of an exclusive global group called the "Centibillionaire's Club". The club refers to people whose net wealth is \$100 billion or above. Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos, who increased his wealth to \$112 billion in 2017, is the world's first centibillionaire. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Adani – became the only Indian member of an exclusive global group called the "Centibillionaire's Club"
- Jeff Bezos is the world's first centibillionaire (in 2017)

Science & Technology

273. In April 2022, in a latest discovery it is found that it is possible to use light as a fuel to move microbots in real-body conditions with intelligent drug delivery that is selectively sensitive to cancer cells. These microbots are referred to as 'microswimmers'. These microbots are made from the two-dimensional compound poly (heptazine imide) carbon nitride (aka PHI carbon nitride). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- It is possible to use light as a fuel to move microbots in real-body conditions with intelligent drug delivery
- These microbots are referred to as – 'Microswimmers'

274. On April 15, Israel successfully tested its new laser missile defense system called "Iron Beam". It is designed to complement a series of aerial defense systems, including the more costly rocket-intercepting Iron Dome. This is the world's first energy-based weapons system that uses a laser to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets & mortars at a cost of \$3.50 per shot. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Israel – successfully tested new laser missile defense system called “Iron Beam”
- It is world’s first energy-based weapons system that uses a laser to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets & mortars
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

275. On April 14, the Indian Air Force (IAF) and IIT Madras signed an MoU for technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems, as part of IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF + IIT Madras = an MoU for Technology Development & finding Indigenous Solutions
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

276. On April 12, the IIT Guwahati partnered with NTPC Limited to design and develop a highly energy-efficient plant for capturing CO₂ from power plants. This technology works on flue gas using a newly activated amine solvent (IITGS). This indigenous technology was developed by a research team led by Professor Bishnupada Mandal, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati. It has the potential to save a lot of foreign exchange for the nation. The outcome of this project will benefit oil, natural gas, biogas industries, and petroleum refineries. The next phase of the study will involve the testing of pilot-plant using industrial flue gas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati + NTPC = partnered to design & develop a highly energy-efficient plant for capturing CO₂ from power plants
- The technology developed by – a research team led by Professor Bishnupada Mandal (IIT Guwahati)
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- Director of IIT Guwahati – Dr. T. G. Sitharam

Appointments & Resignations

277. The United States made history as the Senate confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court. She replaces the retiring liberal Justice Stephen Breyer. Four of the justices on the nine-member court will be women once Jackson takes her seat, making it the most diverse bench in history. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ketanji Brown Jackson – appointed as the first Black woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court of the US
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

278. On April 13, S. Iqbal Singh Lalpura has assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), in New Delhi after being re-nominated as Chairperson vide Ministry of Minority Affairs Notification dated 12.4.2022. Iqbal has succeeded Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi. The commission's Vice Chairperson is Atif Rasheed. The Union government had set up the NCM under the “National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- S. Iqbal Singh Lalpura – assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities
- NCM – was set up under the “National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992”
- HQs of NCM – New Delhi | Chairman – Iqbal Singh Lalpura | VC – Atif Rasheed

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

279. On April 13, Falguni Nayar, the Founder & CEO of beauty supply company Nykaa, is named the “EY Entrepreneur of the Year” for 2021. Larsen & Toubro Group Chairman A. M. Naik was felicitated with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” by Ernst & Young, one of the world's leading management consultancies. Awards were also announced for 9 other categories with the winners. The winners were selected by a 9-member independent Jury Panel led by KV Kamath, former Chairman of ICICI Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Falguni Nayar (Founder & CEO of Nykaa) – named the “Entrepreneur of the Year for 2021” by EY
- A. M. Naik (Group Chairman of L&T) – felicitated with the “Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021” by EY

280. In April 2022, PM Narendra Modi received the first “Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award” for his selfless service to the country and society at the 80th annual Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony held in Mumbai. The award will be given every year to an individual who has made path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to our nation, its people and our society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – received first “Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award” for his selfless service to the country & society

281. In April 2022, Mumbai and Hyderabad have been jointly recognised as “2021 Tree City of the World” by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN-FAO) and Arbor Day Foundation. Mumbai has made the list for the first time, while Hyderabad has featured on it for the second consecutive year. The two Indian cities have won the recognition for their commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities. A total of 138 cities have been recognised for the year 2021 under the programme. The countries with maximum tree cities include the US, UK, and Canada. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mumbai & Hyderabad – jointly recognised as “2021 Tree City of the World” – by UNFAO & Arbor Day Foundation
- The countries with maximum ‘Tree Cities’: US, UK & Canada
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

282. On April 12, Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai C. Patel honored Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and other awardees with the “Champions of Change Award (Madhya Pradesh)” at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center in Bhopal. The award is given by Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE), a Non-profit Organisation recognized by Government of India. The Champions of Change, Madhya Pradesh is a state version of the Champions of Change Award. It is given for the great work done by eminent individuals and organizations towards promoting the values of courage (Gandhian values), community service and social development in the state. The award was initiated by taking inspiration from the vision of women freedom fighter Rani Lakshmi Bai. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Champions of Change Award (MP)” – held at Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center, Bhopal
- The award was presented by the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai C. Patel
- The award is given for promoting: Gandhian Values, Community Service & Social Development
- The award was initiated by taking inspiration from the vision of Rani Lakshmbai
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

283. On April 12, Eminent Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan was conferred the 56th Jnanpith Award, the ceremony of which was held for the first time in Assam. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Chairperson of Jnanpith Selection Board Pratibha Ray handed over the trophy. Phookan is a recipient of Sahitya Akademi and Padma Shri awards too. Jnanpith Award is India’s highest literary award. Nilmani Phookan & Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo were announced as the recipient of 56th Jnanpith Award & 57th Jnanpith Award in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nilamani Phookan (Eminent Assamese Poet) – was conferred the 56th Jnanpith Award – at a ceremony held in Assam
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

Schemes & Initiatives

284. On Aril 5, Uttarakhand government launched “Him Prahari” scheme in areas bordering the hill state. The scheme is meant for ex-servicemen and youngsters and is aimed at stopping the migration of people from the state. It will provide all necessary assistance to ex-servicemen and the youth of the state to settle in the districts that share international borders. The government with the help of Police, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) will constitute border guard teams or snow watchdog teams to stop the migration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched “Him Prahari” scheme
- The scheme is for ex-servicemen & youngsters and is aimed at stopping the migration
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh](#)

285. On April 12, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) Pratima Bhoumik informed the Lok Sabha that 216 courses are being taught from 600 centres across the country under its “PM Daksh (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) Yojana”. The Ministry aspires to reach out to 2.71 lakh people between calendar year 2021-22 and 2025-26. PM Daksh is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized people covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, and sanitation workers. The amount of funds earmarked under ‘PM-DAKSH Yojana’ during 2020-21 and 2021-22 are Rs 44.79 Cr and Rs 79.48 Cr, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “PM Daksh Yojana” of MoSJE is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized people
- Funds earmarked under ‘PM-DAKSH Yojana’ during 2020-21 & 2021-22 – Rs 44.79 Cr & Rs 79.48 Cr





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Important Days & Dates

286. In 2022, 38th Siachen Day was observed to commemorate the “Operation Meghdoot”. On the Baisakhi of 1984, Indian Army landed its troops along Saltoro ridgeline at Bilafond La, followed by Sia La, to pre-empt Pakistan army plans to occupy Siachen Glacier under “Operation Meghdoot”. This operation is the longest continuous military operation in the history of the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 13 – 38th Siachen Day (to commemorate the Indian Army’s “Operation Meghdoot”)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

287. In April 2022, 103rd anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre was observed to pay tribute to the victims. On April 13, 1919 people in Punjab had congregated at Jallianwala Bagh to protest against the arrest of two pro-independence leaders -Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal. The massacre took place when British General Edward Dyer ordered his troops to relentlessly shoot at the crowd as they blocked the only entrance and exit of the venue. Hunter Commission was set up to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 13 – 103rd anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- ‘Hunter Commission’ was set up to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

288. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti or Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti is observed on April 14 every year. It marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who was born on 14 April, 1891 in Mhow (officially Dr. Ambedkar Nagar) in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh. Since 2015, the day has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 14 – “Ambedkar Jayanti” or “Bhim Jayanti” (to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar)
- Dr. Ambedkar Nagar – located in Indore, Madhya Pradesh

289. World Art Day is celebrated every year on April 15, to promote the development, diffusion, and enjoyment of art. The day was adopted by the International Association of Art, a partner of UNESCO, to create awareness of creative activity worldwide. The particular date for this day was chosen in honor of Leonardo da Vinci’s birthday. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 15 – World Art Day – by International Association of Art (since 2012) | Birthday of - Leonardo da Vinci
- HQs of IAA – Paris, France

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

290. Ministry of Culture organized a two-day conference called “Amrit Samagam” on April 12 and 13, 2022 in New Delhi to reflect on the progress of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) so far. The conference was inaugurated by Minister of Home and Co-operation, Amit Shah. The topics of discussion include landmark AKAM initiatives that involve mass public participation (Jan Bhagidhari) such as ‘Har Ghar Jhanda’, ‘International Yoga Day’, ‘Digital District Repository’, ‘Swatantra Swar’ and ‘Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar’. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture – organized a two-day conference called “Amrit Samagam” in New Delhi
- The conference was inaugurated by – Amit Shah
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi

291. In April 2022, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the “National Conference on Mediation and Information Technology” at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat. Gujarat High Court has also initiated a series of steps including live broadcast of court proceedings in the state. President Kovind also inaugurated “Madhavpur Ghed Fair-2022” at Madhavpur in Porbandar district during his three-day visit to Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated the “National Conference on Mediation & Information Technology” at Kevadia, Gujarat
- Madhavpur Ghed Fair – Porbandar, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

292. In April 2022, World Bank’s Global Director for Education Jaime Saavedra met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and governments of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh to discuss concerns over learning losses for children due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In India, learning poverty has shot up from 54% to 70%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to World Bank: Learning Poverty has shot up from 54% to 70% in India
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

293. Temperatures touched the 40 degrees Celsius mark in March, 2022 across large parts of central and western, according to a report titled “Expanding Heat Resilience” by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). In 2022, India recorded its warmest March since 1901, according to the India Meteorological Department. Ahmedabad’s ‘Heat Action Plan’ was introduced in 2013, the first such initiative developed in south Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Expanding Heat Resilience” report – by Natural Resources Defense Council
- In 2022, India recorded its warmest March since 1901
- HQs of NRDC – New York, US | President & CEO – Manish Bapna

294. On April 11, a new study by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) revealed that pollutants like microplastics may be causing growth defects in fish in the Cauvery river. The study was published in the journal Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety. The researchers detected microplastics and toxic chemicals using a technique called ‘Raman Spectroscopy’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A study by the IISc (Bengaluru): Pollutants like microplastics may be causing growth defects in fish in Cauvery river
- Published in – ‘Ecotoxicology & Environmental Safety’ journal
- Researchers detected microplastics & toxic chemicals using a technique called ‘Raman Spectroscopy’



295. On April 11, Vivek Johri, Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), released the “National Time Release Study, 2022”. TRS are essentially a performance measurement tool for assessing the cargo clearance process of the international trade, as recommended by the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The NTRS 2022 covered 15 major Customs formations, including 4 port categories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Johri – released the “National Time Release Study, 2022”
- NTRS 2022 covered 15 major Customs formations, including 4 port categories
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairman – Vivek Johri | Founded in – 1964

Amount & Agreements

296. On April 12, Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$2 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) Loan for designing climate resilient urban infrastructure, strengthening institutional capacity and improving municipal resource mobilization in 16 district headquarter towns (DHTs) in Nagaland. ADB’s financing will support the proposed Nagaland Urban Infrastructure Development Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI + ADB = \$2 million Project Readiness Financing loan for designing Climate Resilient Urban Infrastructure in Nagaland
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

297. On April 12, Asian Development Bank (ADB) sanctioned \$76.25 million or Rs 551 Cr for three specific projects under the Agartala Smart City Limited. These 3 projects include constructing a 23 Kms road by retrofitting 15 stretches (Rs 444 Cr), reviving lakes and water bodies of Maharaja Bir Bikram College and its adjoining areas (Rs 30.67 Cr) and renovating and restoring Ujjayanta Palace and its surrounding (Rs 35.68 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – sanctioned \$76.25 million or Rs 551 Cr for 3 specific projects under Agartala Smart City
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

298. On April 11, Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) signed an MoU for a five-year period to collaborate for setting up renewable energy plant and green hydrogen plant, round the clock (RTC) power for consumers and proposed green hydrogen plants, setting up of requisite infrastructure, training, and knowledge sharing. BPCL aims to achieve Net-Zero, in Scope I and II emissions, by 2040. BPCL also plans to spend Rs. 25,000 Cr to build a renewable energy capacity of 10 GW comprising a mix of solar, wind, small hydro and biomass by 2040. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPICOL (Odisha) + BPCL = a 5-year MoU to set up RE plant & Green Hydrogen plant
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952



299. On April 12, India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA) signed an MoU with the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), the chip industry in the US to identify potential areas of collaboration between the two countries. SIA's member companies include large American chip designers and manufacturers, such as Intel, AMD, NVIDIA, Texas Instruments, Qualcomm, Global Foundries, and Broadcom. In January Intel announced to invest up to \$100 billion to set up the world's largest chip-making facility in Ohio, US. Some Indian companies including Vedanta Group also announced entry into semiconductor manufacturing with phased investment plans of \$15 billion. In December 2021, the Indian government announced a ₹76,000 Cr incentive scheme to encourage semiconductor design and manufacturing in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IESA + SIA (US) = an MoU to identify potential areas of collaboration
- SIA's member companies include – Intel, AMD, NVIDIA, Texas Instruments, Qualcomm, Global Foundries & Broadcom
- India – announced ₹76,000 Cr incentive scheme to encourage Semiconductor Design & Manufacturing
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

300. On April 12, Telangana's Department of Industries & Commerce and the Ministry of Commerce, Thailand signed an MoU to explore the possibility of potential trade and investments in several key focus sectors, mainly involving agro-based food processing, wood processing and wood-based industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana + Thailand = an MoU to explore the possibility of potential trade & investments
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan





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