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National & States Affairs

351. For the first time in India, a Seaweed Park will be set up in Tamil Nadu to improve the livelihood of fishermen. The project to raise quality fish fry in the sea would be implemented under the “Prime Minister’s Matsya Sampada Yojana”. Rs. 20,000 Cr is to be invested in Tamil Nadu for fisheries projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A Seaweed Park will be set up in Tamil Nadu under the “Prime Minister’s Matsya Sampada Yojana” (first of its kind)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

352. On April 12, India’s first Persian newspaper Mirat-ul-Akhbar completed 200 years. Mirat-ul-Akhbar began publication from colonial Calcutta on April 12, 1822 and was the first first printed journal in the Persian world. The weekly journal, published on Fridays, was founded and edited by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, a polymath, scholar and reformer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first Persian newspaper Mirat-ul-Akhbar completed 200 years on April 12 (began publication in 1822)
- ‘Mirat-ul-Akhbar’ was founded by – Raja Ram Mohan Roy

353. On April 15, Bihar government sent a fresh proposal to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to get “Cyclopean Wall” listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a more than 2,500 years old structure at Rajgir. The Cyclopean Wall of Rajgir is a 40 km long wall of stone which encircled the ancient city of Rajgir to protect it from external enemies and invaders, built before 3rd century BC. Bihar is the home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Nalanda University & Mahabodhi temple. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar Govt sent a fresh proposal to ASI to get “Cyclopean Wall” listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site
- “Cyclopean Wall”, a 40 km long wall of stone – located in Rajgir, Bihar
- Nalanda University & Mahabodhi temple – located in Bihar (UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

354. On April 13, International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIITH) hosted its first national symposium under the “Quantum Enabled Science & Technology (QuEST)” program initiated by Department of Science & Technology (DST) from April 11-13, 2022. The Symposium was conducted by the national coordinator of QuEST, Professor Arun K Pati and Prof Apoorva Patel who is also the co-ordinator of QuEST. The same was hosted by IIITH’s Centre for Quantum Science and Technology (CQST). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIIT Hyderabad – hosted its first National Symposium under the “QuEST” program initiated by DST

355. On April 13, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj department of Jammu & Kashmir administration launched a mobile app called “Jan Nigrani” to help people lodge complaints related to various schemes online. The app is an internet based solution for reporting and resolving grievances by the residents of the Jammu and Kashmir against various schemes of the department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rural Development & Panchayati Raj dept (J&K) – launched a mobile app called “Jan Nigrani”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



356. On April 18, Telangana government launched a State-specific “Space Tech Framework”, with the aim of establishing the State as a globally recognised one-stop destination for space technology. The event is India’s first-ever official event hosted on Metaverse. Hyderabad-based technology company Gamitronics has created a blockchain technology led metaverse platform PartyNite where the government’s space-tech policy was introduced at a SpaceShip walk through event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana Govt – launched a State-specific “Space Tech Framework” on the Metaverse platform (first of its kind)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

357. On April 18, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar launched two portals namely, Computerized Registration of Pesticide (CROP) and Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS). The new portals will benefit farmers, exporters as well as industrialists. These two portals have been launched keeping in mind Prime Minister’s vision for the Agriculture sector and would help in taking forward digital Agriculture and Ease of doing Business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar launched two portals namely:
 - **Computerized Registration of Pesticide (CROP)**
 - **Plant Quarantine Management System (PQMS)**

358. On April 15, Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India’s pharmaceutical sector could get access to export incentives if the Commerce Ministry succeeds in securing higher budgetary allocations for the Remission of Duties & Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme. The government had excluded sectors such as Iron & Steel, Chemicals, and Pharmaceuticals from the RoDTEP scheme notified in August 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sectors excluded from the RoDTEP scheme: Iron & Steel, Chemicals, and Pharmaceuticals
- **RoDTEP – Remission of Duties & Taxes on Exported Products** (effective from Jan 2021)

359. NITI Aayog plans to launch a National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in May to provide government data in a user-friendly format and to promote data-driven decision making and research. The portal will help policymakers, academics and researchers to easily analyse data without having to process it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – plans to launch a “National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP)” in May
- [HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Amitabh Kant](#)
- [Chairperson – Narendra Modi](#) | [Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar](#)

360. In the presence of Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Thakur inaugurated the 40th edition of the ‘Hunar Haat’, held in Mumbai from April 16-27, 2022. Hunar Haat is a credible platform to promote ‘Swadeshi’ products. The minister also highlighted ‘Tejas’, a skilling programme which is launched by Government of India. Under this initiative, India will send skilled manpower to UAE. Within a year, 30,000 skilled job-seekers will be sent to UAE. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – inaugurated the 40th edition of ‘Hunar Haat’ – held in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- India will send skilled manpower to UAE – under ‘Tejas’ skilling programme
- ‘Hunar Haat’ is organised by – Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

361. On April 17, India’s first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named “Radio Aksh” was launched in Nagpur, with the Blind Relief Association, Nagpur and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham) serving as the pioneers of the concept. It will help the visually-impaired gain seamless access to education resources and audiobooks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired, named “Radio Aksh” was launched in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Pioneers of the concept = Blind Relief Association + Saksham
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

362. On April 20, California-based Biliti Electric Inc (Biliti) announced to setup the world’s largest electric three-wheeler factory in Telangana, with a production capacity of 2,40,000 electric vehicles each year. The new plant is estimated to drive private investment of \$150 million and expected to create over 3,000 jobs in the State. Biliti currently operates through an exclusive manufacturing partnership with Hyderabad-based Gayam Motor Works (GMW) for manufacturing its three-wheelers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Biliti (US) – announced to setup the world’s largest electric three-wheeler factory in Telangana
- Expected production capacity – 2,40,000 electric vehicles/year | Estimated investment – \$150 million
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

International Affairs

363. On April 14, International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the creation of a new facility named “Resilience and Sustainability Trust” to help low-income and most middle-income countries deal with longer-term challenges such as climate change and pandemics. It would take effect from May 1 with a goal of raising at least \$45 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMF approved the creation of a new facility named “Resilience and Sustainability Trust”
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

364. On April 18, IndusInd Bank has been awarded the global “Celent Model Bank” award under the category - ‘Payments System Transformation’ for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH). The award acknowledges the Bank’s outstanding journey in creating a cloud-based central payments hub. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank – received the global “Celent Model Bank” award under ‘Payments System Transformation’ category
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

365. On April 14, London-based Crypto lender Nexo partnered with global payments company Mastercard & DiPocket to launch the world’s first ‘crypto-backed’ payment card namely “Nexo Card”. Electronic money firm DiPocket is Nexo’s card issuer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nexo + Mastercard + DiPocket = partnership to launch the world’s first ‘crypto-backed’ payment card - “Nexo Card”
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966

366. On April 15, the 121 Finance became India’s first fintech-led NBFC-Factor to receive the Certificate of Registration from the RBI under “Registration of Factors (Reserve Bank) Regulations, 2022”. Until now, Factoring was offered only to the large corporates; however, 121 Finance has brought factoring to the MSMEs and has its roots ground deep in FinTech. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 121 Finance – became India’s first fintech-led NBFC-Factor to receive the Certificate of Registration from the RBI
- HQs of 121 Finance – Jaipur, Rajasthan | Founder & CEO – Ravi Modani

367. On April 18, State Bank of India (SBI) raised 3-year funds worth \$500 million through a syndicated loan facility. The facility is for \$400 million-plus \$100 million as a greenshoe option. It is the first offshore USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)-linked syndicated loan by SBI through its Gift City Branch. SBI Gift City Branch has become the largest branch in IFSC. MUFG, Bank of America, and JP Morgan were the joint lenders for this offering whereas First Abu Dhabi Bank acted as facility agent. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI raised 3-year funds worth \$500 million through a syndicated loan facility – from its IFSC Gift City Branch
- Facility worth \$400 million + \$100 million as a greenshoe option

Defence Affairs

368. On April 20, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar launched INS Vagsheer, the sixth Scorpene-class submarine under ‘Project-75’, at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai. Vagsheer is named after the sand fish, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean. The Mazagon Dock has so far delivered four Scorpene-class submarines under the project to the Indian Navy - INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj and INS Vela. The fifth submarine ‘Vagir’ is currently under trial at sea. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar launched “INS Vagsheer” (6th Scorpene-class submarine under ‘Project-75’) in Mumbai
- All Scorpene-class submarines under ‘Project-75’ are being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL)
- The 6 submarines being commissioned under the Indian Navy’s Project-75 are:
1st – Kalvari | 2nd – Khanderi | 3rd – Karanj | 4th – Vela | 5th – Vagir | 6th – Vagsheer

369. On April 18, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval inaugurated the National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise. National Cyber Exercise (NCX) India will be conducted as a hybrid exercise over a period of ten days from 18 to 29 April 2022 with the aim to train senior management and technical personnel of Government. The program is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) as the Knowledge Partner and supported by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The platform for training is being provided by CyberExer Technologies, an Estonian cybersecurity company accredited for globally conducting several large cyber exercises. Government of India is taking various steps to build capacities and enhance skills in Cyber Security. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Doval – inaugurated the “National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise” (18 to 29 April)
- National Cyber Exercise (NCX): Conducted by – NSCS | Knowledge Partner – DSCI | Supported by – DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958



Sports & Games

370. On April 18, Stefanos Tsitsipas won the men’s singles title at the “Monte Carlo Masters 2022” beating Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. With this, Stefanos Tsitsipas became the first repeat champion at Monte Carlo Masters since Spaniard Rafael Nadal in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece - Tennis) – won men’s singles title at “Monte Carlo Masters 2022”
- Greece – Athens – Euro | PM – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

371. On April 18, 15-year old Young Indian Grandmaster from Chennai, D. Gukesh emerged victorious in the 48th La Roda International Open Chess tournament. He defeated Israel’s Victor Mikhalevski in the final round. Gukesh’s compatriot - R. Praggnanandhaa, another teenage GM, took the third spot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D. Gukesh (Tamil Nadu) – won the 48th La Roda International Open Chess tournament (defeating - Victor Mikhalevski)
- R. Praggnanandhaa (Tamil Nadu) – took third spot in the tournament

372. On April 16, Top Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash from Kerala won the men’s 200m butterfly gold at the Danish Open swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark. He stopped the clock at 1.59.27 to stand atop the podium. Last year in Rome, Prakash became the first Indian swimmer to breach the Olympic ‘A’ standard time. Teenager Vedaant Madhavan, son of Indian actor R. Madhavan, won the silver medal in the men’s 1500m freestyle event. Shakthi Balakrishnan finished second in the ‘B’ Final and eighth overall in the women’s 400m medley. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sajan Prakash (Kerala) – won men’s 200m butterfly gold at the ‘Danish Open’ swimming meet in Copenhagen, Denmark
- Vedaant Madhavan – won silver medal in the men’s 1500m freestyle event
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

Science & Technology

373. On April 18, a classified satellite for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office named “NROL-85” was launched into space from California. The satellite lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base aboard a two-stage ‘SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket’. It was the first mission by the NRO to reuse a SpaceX rocket booster. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A classified satellite for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office named “NROL-85” was launched into space
- The satellite was launched aboard ‘SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket’ from California, US

374. On April 18, China successfully launched a new satellite named “Zhongxing-6D” into space from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China’s Sichuan Province by a Long March-3B carrier rocket. This launch marked the 415th mission for the Long March series carrier rockets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – successfully launched a new satellite named “Zhongxing-6D” aboard ‘Long March-3B’ carrier rocket
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

375. On April 17, Scientists from the ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) discovered a new species of shrimp named “Actinimenes Koyas”. The species was collected at a depth of 1.0–2.0 m from the coral atoll of Agatti Island, which is part of the Lakshadweep islands, Arabian Sea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAR-NBFGR – discovered a new species of shrimp named “Actinimenes Koyas” – in Agatti Island, Lakshadweep islands
- ICAR-NBFGR – located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Appointments & Resignations

376. On April 17, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has granted an extension of one year to Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas. This is the second extension for Vyas, who was first appointed to the post in September 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas – tenure extended for 1 year as the Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission
- HQs of AEC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas



377. On April 18, Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi stepped down under pressure from Saudi Arabia and is now under de-facto house arrest. He handed over his power to the newly created presidential council, which consists of 8 political leaders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi (Yemeni President) – stepped down under pressure from Saudi Arabia
- [Yemen – Sana’a – Yemeni Rial](#)

378. On April 18, Digit Insurance elevated Jasleen Kohli as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company with effect from April 20. The 42-year-old, Kohli became one of the youngest CEOs in the insurance industry. She took over from Vijay Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jasleen Kohli – appointed as new MD & CEO of Digit Insurance (succeeding - Vijay Kumar)
- [HQs of Digit Insurance – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Jasleen Kohli](#)

379. On April 18, Lieutenant General Manoj Chandrashekar Pande is appointed as the Chief of the Indian Army. He became the 29th Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and the first engineer to hold the top military post. Manoj Pande succeeded General Manoj Mukund Naravane who was scheduled to complete his 28-month tenure on 30 April, 2022. General Manoj Pande was serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff since 1 February 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Chandrashekar Pande – appointed as the Chief of the Indian Army or 29th COAS (succeeding - MM Naravane)
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju](#)

380. On April 19, President Alassane Ouattara reappointed Patrick Achi as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, also known as Cote d'Ivoire, after Patrick resigned from the post earlier in April, 2022. He was initially appointed as prime minister in March 2021. Yamoussoukro & CFA franc are the capital & currency of the country, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Patrick Achi – reappointed as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast (also known as Cote d'Ivoire)
- [Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc | PM – Patrick Achi | President – Alassane Ouattara](#)

381. On April 20, the Union Home Ministry appointed Naresh Kumar as new Chief Secretary of Delhi. Naresh was serving as the chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh. Naresh replaced his batchmate Vijay Kumar Dev who retired from the post on April 20. Vijay Kumar Dev took charge as the State Election Commissioner of Delhi on April 21. Dharmendra, a 1989-batch IAS, is appointed as the Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh, in the place of Naresh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naresh Kumar – is appointed as new Chief Secretary of Delhi
- Dharmendra – is appointed as new Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh
- Vijay Dev – is appointed as the State Election Commissioner of Delhi
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar](#)





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Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

382. On April 21, Ministry of Civil Aviation flagship regional connectivity scheme “UDAN” was awarded the “Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020” under the ‘Innovation’ category by the PM Narendra Modi at Vigyan Bhawan. The award was presented to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCA’s “UDAN” scheme – received “Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020” under ‘Innovation’ category
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh

383. On April 14, New Zealand pacer Tim Southee won the prestigious “Sir Richard Hadlee Medal” at the New Zealand Cricket Awards for his consistency throughout the 2021/22 season. He was awarded the medal for his stellar performances across all three formats in the latest season. Southee is New Zealand’s third-highest wicket-taker in Tests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tim Southee (New Zealand) – won the prestigious “Sir Richard Hadlee Medal” at the New Zealand Cricket Awards
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

Schemes & Initiatives

384. On April 17, Jharkhand government announced to launch the “Guruji Student Credit Card” scheme from July. The Guruji Credit Card scheme will allow students to take a soft loan of up to Rs 10 lakh at a very low rate of interest and no mortgage. The scheme is aimed at encouraging the youth of the state to pursue higher education. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched “Guruji Student Credit Card” scheme for students (soft loan of up to Rs 10 lakh)
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

Important Days & Dates

385. World Hemophilia Day is marked on April 17 annually to raise awareness about hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. Hemophilia or Haemophilia is an inherited genetic disorder in which the blood's capacity to clot is substantially impaired, causing one to bleed excessively even from minor injuries. In 2022, the theme is “Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy”. The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) was established in 1963 to enhance treatment and care for all hemophilia patients. The WFH began observing World Hemophilia Day in 1989. It chose 17 April as the date to honour the WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 17 – World Hemophilia Day – by World Federation of Hemophilia (since 1989)
- 2022’s Theme – “Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy”



386. Every year World Liver Day is celebrated on April 19 to raise awareness about liver diseases across the world. The liver is the largest solid organ of the body that removes toxins from the body. Last year, the theme of World Liver Day was “Keep Your Liver Healthy and Disease-Free”. This year, the theme of this day has not been declared on the official website yet.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 19 – World Liver Day

387. On April 16, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the birth anniversary of Sri Siddalinga Swami of Tontadarya Mutt in Gadag will be celebrated as “Integration Day”. The CM also referred to Swami’s participation in the Gokak movement for the cause of Kannada. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka CM announced to celebrated the birth anniversary of Sri Siddalinga Swami as “Integration Day”
- Tontadarya Matha – a Hindu temple in Gadag, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

Books & Authors

388. On April 18, Prem Rawat’s book titled “Hear Yourself: How to find peace in a noisy world” for the Indian sub-continent”, was launched for the Indian sub-continent. The book was earlier released in the United States in September, 2021. The book is also available in several other languages including French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese. The book is published by Harper Collins. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Hear Yourself: How to find peace in a noisy world” book – authored by Prem Rawat
- Publisher – Harper Collins

Obituaries

389. PM Narendra Modi condoled the demise of Bilquis Edhi, a Pakistani humanitarian activist. Bilquis Bano Edhi passed away in Karachi at the age of 74 on April 15, 2022. She was a Pakistani nurse who helped save the lives of over 16,000 babies. Her lifelong dedication to humanitarian work touched the lives of people across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bilquis Bano Edhi (Pakistan) – a Humanitarian Activist & Nurse – passed away

390. On April 17, Popular Odia singer and Music Director Prafulla Kar passed away. He was 83. His songs enriched more than 70 Odia films over six decades. He received the State film award for a record six times. In 2015, he was conferred with Padma Shri award in the field of art. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prafulla Kar – Odia singer & Music Director – passed away
- He received: State film award (6 times) & Padma Shri award (2015)

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

391. A 5-day Army Commanders' Conference was held in New Delhi from April 18-22, 2022. The conference was chaired by Army Chief Gen MM Naravane. It focused on specific plans for capability development and boosting operational preparedness of the 1.3 million-strong force. The Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event that is held in April and October every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Five-day Army Commanders' Conference – held in New Delhi (chaired by – Army Chief Gen M. M. Naravane)
- It is an apex level biannual event held in April & October every year

392. Surat hosted the 3-day national conference on “Smart Cities Smart Urbanisation”, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA) from April 18. Various awards under the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav were handed over by MoUHA. Apart from this, “India Smart Cities Awards 2020” were given to the 51 smart cities which had done exemplary work. Surat and Indore were given the Best city award, while Uttar Pradesh was awarded the Best State. The Smart Cities Mission (SCM) launched the ‘Urban Outcomes Framework 2022’, ‘Artificial Intelligence Playbook for Cities’ & ‘AMPLIFI’ - an assessment and monitoring platform, which is MoHUA's integrated data portal. Moreover, ‘Digital Duniya’ pavilion was inaugurated at the “Smart Cities Smart Urbanization Conference” to highlight initiatives that empower communities through data and digital technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Surat – hosted the 3-day national conference on “Smart Cities Smart Urbanisation”
- “India Smart Cities Awards 2020” were given to the 51 smart cities | Best City: Surat & Indore | Best State: UP
- ‘AMPLIFI’ portal, an assessment & monitoring platform of – MoHUA
- ‘Digital Duniya’ pavilion – inaugurated at the Conference

393. “Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2022” was held from April 17 to 21 at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. Organised by PUB, Singapore's national water agency, SIWW covered all aspects of the urban water cycle reflective of current trends and issues in and around the water sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “International Water Week 2022” – held at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

Ranks, Report & Surveys

394. Extreme poverty in India is 12.3% points lower in 2019 than in 2011 as poverty headcount rate has declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019, according to World Bank's working paper titled “Poverty in India Has Declined over the Last Decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought”. Poverty reduction was higher in rural areas compared to urban India. Rural and urban poverty dropped by 14.7% and 7.9% points during 2011-2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Poverty in India Has Declined over the Last Decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought” research paper – by WB
- Extreme poverty in India dropped by 12.3% during 2011-2019 (from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019)
- Rural & Urban poverty dropped by 14.7% & 7.9% points during 2011-2019
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



395. As on April 2022, Cyrus S. Poonawalla, the founder of Serum Institute of India, is the richest billionaire in the healthcare sector in 2022 with a net worth of \$26 billion, according to “Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022”. In 2020, Poonawalla had a net worth of \$8.2 billion, which has risen by \$17.8 billion over the last two years. The second richest healthcare billionaire globally is Thomas Frist Jr. and family with a net worth of \$19 billion. While Dilip Shanghavi & family is the 2nd Indian and overall 5th person on the list with a net worth of \$18 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022”: Topped by – Cyrus S. Poonawalla (\$26 billion)
- Dilip Shanghavi & family – 5th (\$18 billion)

Ordinance, Bills & Acts

396. On April 17, the central government has amended rules of the “Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 2019”, paving the way for up to 20% foreign direct investment in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The government is planning to dilute its stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO). Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to the provisions of the “Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, (LIC Act)”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Govt amended rules of the “Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 2019”
- 20% FDI is allowed in LIC
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

397. On April 18, President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the “Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022” which empowers police to obtain physical and biological samples of convicts and those accused of crimes. The new Act replaces the “Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920” and was passed by Lok Sabha on April 4 and Rajya Sabha on April 6. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the “Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022”
- “Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, 2022” replaces the “Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920”

398. In April 2022, Parliament passed a bill for the inclusion of the Darlong community as a sub-tribe of Kuki in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tripura. Rajya Sabha passed the “Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2022”. While Lok Sabha had cleared the bill on March 28. Kuki is one of the main tribal communities in Northeast India and the Darlong community in Tripura will become its 18th sub-tribe. There are 427 tribal communities in the country, of which 130 major categories are from the Northeast. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parliament passed a bill to include Darlong community as a sub-tribe of Kuki in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tripura
- ‘Darlong’ community in Tripura will become 18th sub-tribe of Kuki
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

399. On April 19, India and Maldives signed seven MoUs for projects to be built under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) through local bodies. The projects are worth a total grant of 26.8 million Rufiyaa (equivalent to approximately \$1.7 million). The announcement was made during the official visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Addu City. The MoUs were signed by Abdulla Shahid, Maldives Foreign Minister and Indian High Commissioner Munu Mahawar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Maldives = 7 MoUs worth \$1.7 million under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the HICDP
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

400. On April 13, Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of the Environment of Japan in the areas of Decentralized Domestic Waste Water Management. A Management Council will be formed which will be responsible for the implementation of this MoC by formulating detailed activities of collaboration and the monitoring of its progress. The decentralized Johkasou systems towards management of wastewater can have greater implications for management of grey/black water from settlements with coverage under Jal Jeevan Mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = an MoU for Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Management
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida



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