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National & States Affairs

401. On April 19, the SEBI reconstituted its Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS), which provides guidance on enhancing the regulator's technological capabilities. The ALeRTS will now be headed by Sunil Bajpai, former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) at the TRAI. The 7-member committee, which was set-up by the SEBI in December 2021, was earlier chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI reconstituted its 7-member Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory & Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)
- The ALeRTS will now be headed by – Sunil Bajpai
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

402. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) broke all previous records to create the highest ever employment under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP). The KVIC established 1.03 lakh new manufacturing and service units and created over 8.25 lakh jobs. This is for the first time since the launch of the PMEGP Scheme in 2008, that KVIC has established over 1 lakh new units in a financial year. These 1,03,219 units were established at a total capital of nearly Rs 12,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – broke all previous records to create the highest ever employment under 'PMEGP'
- KVIC established 1.03 lakh new units & created over 8.25 lakh jobs | PMEGP Scheme launched in – 2008
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Founded in – 1956

403. On April 21, Skill India (or National Skills Development Mission of India), in partnership with the Directorate General of Training (DGT), organised an "Apprenticeship Mela" at more than 700 locations throughout India. The initiative aims to support the hiring of over 1 lakh apprentices while assisting employers in tapping the right talent. Over 4000 organisations across more than 30 sectors participated in this "Apprenticeship Mela". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Skill India + DGT = organised an "Apprenticeship Mela" at more than 700 locations throughout India
- Skill India – launched in 2015 by PM Modi (Managed by – NSDC)

404. On April 18, Rajasthan became the first State in India to get the 'L-route' server to provide its flagship digital services and enforce e-governance with seamless internet connectivity. The new facility will strengthen internet infrastructure and help improve security and resilience of internet-based operations. The new server has been installed at the Bhamashah State Data Centre here in association with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – became the first State in India to get the 'L-route' server to strengthen internet infrastructure
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

405. On April 16, the Punjab government announced 300 units of free power for households in the state every month from July 1, but with a caveat that they will have to pay the full bill if their usage exceeds 600 units in two months (300 units per month). However, scheduled castes, backward castes, below-poverty-line households and freedom fighters will be charged just for the usage over and above 600 units. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Punjab Govt – announced 300 units of free power for households in the state every month from July 1, 2022
- People will have to pay the full bill if their usage exceeds 600 units in two months
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

406. On April 17, the Border Roads Organisation Director General Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhary announced to construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal Pradesh with Ladakh. The Centre has already made 'Project Yojak' of BRO to execute this ambitious project. This tunnel will be completed by 2025. The south portal of the tunnel will be at Shinku La and the north portal at Lakhang. He also recently opened the strategically important Himachal to Zaskar Road at Shinku La Pass. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BRO – to construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet under 'Project Yojak'
- The tunnel will connect Lahaul Valley (Himachal Pradesh) to Zaskar Valley (Ladakh)
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded on – May 7, 1960
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

407. On April 18, India's first portable solar rooftop system was inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's initiative to develop renewable energy cities across India. Designed by the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the PV Ports are manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL). Of the 40 PV Port systems to be installed in Gandhinagar, SPSL has already installed more than 30 systems. The PV Port system is highly cost-effective, requires low maintenance, and has a long shelf life of 25-30 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first portable solar rooftop system – inaugurated at Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Designed by – GIZ (Germany) | Manufactured by Servotech Power Systems Ltd (New Delhi)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar

408. On April 23, Tripura government announced 50% transport subsidy from the existing 10% under the revised Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme (TIIPIS), 2022, for five years to attract investment. Besides, increasing air connectivity with all major Indian cities, train connectivity with other parts of the country have been introduced. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tripura – announced 50% transport subsidy from existing 10% under the revised TIIPIS, for 5 years to attract investment
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya



409. On April 22, Oil India Limited (OIL) took the first significant step towards Green Hydrogen Economy in India with the commissioning of India's First 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant with an installed capacity of 10 kg per day at Jorhat, Assam. The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array. The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OIL – commissioned India's First 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant – at Jorhat, Assam
- Capacity – 10 kg per day | The plant produces Green Hydrogen using a 100 kW 'AEM Electrolyser array' technology
- HQs of OIL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra (till June 30, 2022 | Later - Ranjit Rath)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

International Affairs

410. On April 15, Twitter Inc. adopted a limited-duration shareholder rights plan to protect itself from Elon Musk's \$43 billion cash takeover offer. Under the plan, also known as a 'poison pill' strategy to resist a bid from a potential acquirer, the rights will become exercisable if anyone acquires ownership of 15% or more of Twitter's outstanding common stock in a transaction not approved by the Board. The rights plan will expire on April 14, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Twitter – adopted a limited-duration shareholder rights plan also known as a 'poison pill' strategy
- HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, US | CEO – Parag Agrawal | Founded in – 2006

411. In April 2022, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy asked President Joe Biden to designate Russia as a 'State Sponsor of Terrorism'. The US Secretary of State has the power to designate countries that have repeatedly provided support for acts of International Terrorism as "State Sponsors of Terrorism". As of now, there are four countries on the list of state sponsors of terrorism - Syria, Iran, North Korea & Cuba. Cuba was first designated in 1982. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ukraine asked the US to designate Russia as a 'State Sponsor of Terrorism'
- As of now, there are 4 countries on the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism: Syria, Iran, North Korea & Cuba
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

412. On April 19, the Central Bank of Russia included a new payment system called "HELLO" into the national register of credit institutions. Payment system HELLO is a set of payment services and institutions that facilitates money transfer transactions. Russian commercial bank TransKapitalBank will be the operator of the system's payment infrastructure services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Bank of Russia included a new payment system called "HELLO"
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



413. On April 19, the RBI unveiled Large Exposures Framework (LEF) for Upper Layer NBFCs with effect from October 1, 2022. The sum of all the exposure values of Upper Layer NBFC, to a single counterparty and to a group of connected counterparties, must not be higher than 20% and 25%, respectively, of its available eligible capital base at all times. The RBI also prescribed NBFCs which are in the upper layer to maintain a common equity tier-1 (CET1) capital of at least 9% to the risk weighted assets (RWA), as compared to 5.5% for banks. The minimum capital adequacy requirement of NBFCs is 15%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI unveiled Large Exposures Framework (LEF) for Upper Layer NBFCs with effect from October 1, 2022
- Sum of all the exposure values of Upper Layer NBFC must not be higher than 20% (for one entity) & 25% (for group)
- RBI prescribed NBFCs which are in the Upper Layer to maintain a CET1 capital of at least 9% to RWA
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

414. On April 20, Ministry of Corporate Affairs amended “Nidhi Rules, 2014” governing Nidhi companies to protect the interests of the public and prevent possible illegal fundraising activities. Nidhi companies are non-banking finance entities that are into lending and borrowing transactions with their members. A public company incorporated as a Nidhi with a share capital of ₹10 lakh should first get itself declared as a ‘Nidhi’ by applying in form NDH-4 with a minimum membership of 200 and a Net Owned Fund (NOF) of ₹20 lakh within 120 days of its incorporation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs – amended “Nidhi Rules, 2014” to prevent illegal fundraising activities
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: [Nirmala Sitharaman](#) | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: [Rao Inderjit Singh](#)

415. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) announced to launch “Fincluvation” on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence on August 15, 2022. It is a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion. Fincluvation is an Industry first initiative to create a powerful platform to mobilize the start-up community towards building meaningful financial products aimed at financial inclusion. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB announced to launch “Fincluvation” on August 15, 2022
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

416. On April 21, Dhanlaxmi Bank signed an MoU with Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) for collection of taxes. The bank has been authorised by the RBI based on the recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) for collection of various taxes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dhanlaxmi Bank + CBDT + CBIC = an MoU for collection of taxes
- Dhanlaxmi Bank – authorised by the RBI based on the recommendation from CGA for collection of various taxes
- HQs of Dhanlaxmi Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – J. K. Shivan



417. On April 20, the RBI allowed Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) to raise funds from people in their area of operation or existing shareholders through a variety of instruments. The outstanding amount of Perpetual Non-Cumulative Preference Shares and Perpetual Debt Instruments along with outstanding Innovative Perpetual Debt Instruments (IPDI) should not exceed 35% of total Tier-I capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – allowed Rural Cooperative Banks to raise funds from people in their area of operation or existing shareholders
- The outstanding amount of Perpetual Non-Cumulative Preference Shares/Instruments should not exceed 35% of total Tier-I capital
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

Defence Affairs

418. On April 19, Union Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar inaugurated the 8th edition of National Level Pollution Response Exercise NATPOLREX, conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) off Mormugao harbour in Goa. The objective of “NATPOLREX-VIII” is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills. It aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) at the national and regional levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th edition of “NATPOLREX” – conducted by the ICG off Mormugao harbour in Goa
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | DG – Virender Singh Pathania | Founded in – 1977

Sports & Games

419. In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the 2nd edition of Khelo India University Games, to be held in Bengaluru from April 24 to 3 May, will have its own mobile application “Khelo India Uni Games 2022”. The game witnessed over 4,500 participants representing a total of about 189 universities vies for the top honours in 20 disciplines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Khelo India Uni Games 2022” app – launched for 2nd edition of ‘Khelo India University Games’ – to be held in Bengaluru

420. On April 16, the 2022 edition or 5th edition of the “Invictus Games” was held in The Hague, Netherlands. The first edition of the Games was held in London in 2014. The 2023 edition will be held in Dusseldorf, Germany. The Games are an international sporting competition similar to the Paralympics, but meant for wounded, injured, and sick military service personnel and war veterans. The Invictus Games are the brainchild of Harry, Duke of Sussex. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of “Invictus Games 2022” – held in The Hague, Netherlands
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte



421. The 34-year-old Cricketer Kieron Pollard announced his retirement from International Cricket though he will continue to freelance in private T20 and T10 leagues across the globe. Kieron Adrian Pollard is a Trinidadian cricketer. He captained the West Indies cricket team in limited overs cricket and Trinbago Knight Riders in CPL. Pollard made his ODI debut back in 2007. He became the first West Indies player in White-ball cricket to represent 101 T20Is and 123 ODIs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kieron Pollard (Trinidad & Tobago – West Indies team) – retired from International Cricket

Science & Technology

422. A group of Indian scientists discovered a new species of eel (fish) from among specimens collected from the Kalamukku and Digha Mohana fishing harbours in Kerala and West Bengal respectively. Their study was published in the Journal of Fish Biology. The newly discovered eel belongs to the Congrid eels group and has been named 'Ariosoma indicum'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian scientists discovered a new species of eel (fish) named 'Ariosoma indicum' from Kerala & West Bengal
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

423. On April 16, three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth safely, after spending 6 months aboard China's new space station. The 'Shenzhou-13' crew safely returned to Earth after their epic 6-month orbital trip. Last year in 2021, three Chinese astronauts had completed their 3-month Shenzhou-12 mission and returned to Earth safely. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Shenzhou-13' crew comprising 3 Chinese astronauts safely returned to Earth after spending 6 months in Space
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

424. On April 21, Russia tested its new Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) "RS-28 Sarmat" (NATO name Satan-II). It was launched from Plesetsk in North West Russia with the intended target in the Kamchatka peninsula almost 6,000 km away. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – tested its new Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) "RS-28 Sarmat" (NATO name Satan-II)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

Appointments & Resignations

425. April 14, India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the apex body for India's pulses trade and industry, appointed Bimal Kothari as the new Chairman (3rd). He is one of the key founding members of the association, has been the Vice-Chairman of IPGA since 2011 when the trade body was formed. He took over as the third chairman of the association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bimal Kothari – appointed as the 3rd chairman of India Pulses and Grains Association (succeeding – Jitu Bheda)
- HQs of IPGA – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Bimal Kothari | Established in – 2011



426. On April 20, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of eminent physicist Ajay Kumar Sood as Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India for a period of 3 years. He will succeed renowned biologist K. VijayRaghavan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar Sood – appointed as Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the GoI for 3 years (succeeding - K. VijayRaghavan)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

427. On April 21, in recognition of his contribution in the defence sector, Indian-American chief executive of General Atomics Global Corporation Vivek Lall has been selected for the 6th Entrepreneur Leadership Awards by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) under ‘Global Leader in Defence & Aviation Sector’ award category. Lall was also granted the Grand Cross by His Highness Mahmoud Salah Al Din Assaf from the Royal Order of Banu Assaf in January 2022. The IACC, established in 1968, is the apex bi-lateral Chamber synergizing India-US Economic Engagement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Lall – selected for the 6th Entrepreneur Leadership Awards – by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)
- Award category – ‘Global Leader in Defence & Aviation Sector’

428. On April 21, India captain Rohit Sharma and pacer Jasprit Bumrah have been named among the “Five Cricketers of the Year” in the 2022 edition of the Wisden Almanack. England fast bowler Ollie Robinson, South African women’s player Dane van Niekerk and New Zealand opener Devon Conway are the other three. Moreover, former England captain Joe Root is named “Leading Cricketer in the World”, South Africa’s Lizelle Lee the “Leading Woman Cricketer in the World” and Pakistan’s Mohammad Rizwan the “Leading T20 Cricketer”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rohit Sharma + Jasprit Bumrah = named among the Wisden’s “Five Cricketers of the Year” for 2022
- Joe Root ([England](#)) – named “Leading Cricketer in the World”
- Lizelle Lee ([South Africa](#)) – named “Leading Woman Cricketer in the World”
- Mohammad Rizwan ([Pakistan](#)) – named “Leading T20 Cricketer in the World”

Schemes & Initiatives

429. On April 19, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting COVID-19, was extended for a further period of 180 days. PMGKP was launched on March 30, 2020 to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of ₹50 Lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PMGKP – extended for a further period of 180 days from April 19
- It was launched on March 30, 2020 to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of ₹50 Lakh





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Important Days & Dates

430. The UN's Chinese Language Day is observed across the globe on April 20. Language Days at the United Nations seek to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization. The day was first observed on November 12, 2010 and since 2011, it has been observed on April 20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 20 – UN's Chinese Language Day
- UN language days:
 - Arabic (18 December)
 - Chinese (20 April)
 - English (23 April)
 - French (20 March)
 - Russian (6 June)
 - Spanish (23 April)

431. The government celebrated the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9th Sikh guru, with a two-day event at Red Fort starting April 20 and released a commemorative postage stamp and coin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government celebrated the 400th birth anniversary of the 9th Sikh guru - Guru Tegh Bahadur

432. World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed every year on April 21 to emphasize the role of creativity and innovation in different aspects of human development. World Creativity and Innovation Day was founded on May 25, 2001 in Toronto, Canada. However, it came into existence after the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to celebrate the day on April 27, 2017. The day was first observed in 2018. While the World Creativity and Innovation Week (WCIW) is observed from April 15 to 21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 21 – World Creativity & Innovation Day (since 2018)
- April 15 to 21 – World Creativity & Innovation Week

433. Every year, on April 21, the public services rendered by these civil servants is celebrated in the form of Civil Services Day. It was on this day in 1947 that the country's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi. The first such event took place on April 21, 2006, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 21 – “National Civil Services Day” (since 2006)
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers – on April 21, 1947

434. April 22 marked “Earth Day”, an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. The year 2022 marked the 52nd anniversary of the annual celebrations. This year's theme for Earth Day is “Invest In Our Planet”. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 as “International Mother Earth Day”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- April 22 – International Mother Earth Day or Earth Day (since 2009)
- Theme – “Invest In Our Planet”

Books & Authors

435. On April 22, Odisha’s Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released a coffee table book titled “The Magic of Mangalajodi”, written by Avinash Khemka, a wildlife photographer and conservationist. Patnaik also released a book, “Sikh History of Eastern India” which is a rigorous research work of historian Abinash Mohapatra. Mohapatra, a scholar of Sikh history based in Odisha, has authored 38 books on Sikh history, theology and principles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha’s CM Naveen Patnaik released two books:
 - “The Magic of Mangalajodi” – by Avinash Khemka
 - “Sikh History of Eastern India” – by Abinash Mohapatra
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

Obituaries

436. In April 2022, Indian table tennis player Vishwa Deenadayalan of Tamil Nadu, died in a road accident. He was 18. He was on his way to participate in the 83rd Senior National Table Tennis Championship in Shillong, Meghalaya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vishwa Deenadayalan ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – a Table Tennis Player – passed away
- 83rd Senior National Table Tennis Championship – held in Shillong, Meghalaya

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

437. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the first “Semicon India 2022 Conference” organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in Bengaluru on April 29. Semicon India 2022, a 3-day conference, was organised to take forward the vision of PM Modi to make India a leader in electronics manufacturing, semiconductor design, manufacturing and innovation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi inaugurated the first “Semicon India 2022 Conference” in Bengaluru – organised by MeitY

438. The “Colombo Security Conclave Virtual Conference” on Sharing of experiences in investigation of terrorism cases was organised by the National Investigation Agency of India on 19 April 2022. Panellists and participants from India, Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh participated in the virtual conference. Participants discussed the various challenges related to terrorism in their respective countries and shared experiences on prosecution of terrorism cases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Colombo Security Conclave Virtual Conference on Investigation of Terrorism Cases” – organised by the NIA
- [HQs of NIA – New Delhi](#) | [Director General – Kuldiep Singh](#) (addi. charge)



439. The government announced a foodgrain production target of 328 million tonnes for 2022-23 at the “National Conference on Agriculture: Kharif Campaign 2022”. The conference was inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in Delhi. Of the 328 million foodgrain production target fixed for 2022-23, kharif foodgrain production target has been fixed at 163.15 million tonnes, while rabi foodgrain production target has been kept at 164.85 million tonnes.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “National Conference on Agriculture: Kharif Campaign 2022” – held at New Delhi
- Govt announced a foodgrain production target of 328 MT for 2022-23 (163.15 MT for Kharif + 164.85 MT for Rabi)

440. Seven universities of West Bengal signed 15 MoUs with international and national Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) during the 6th edition of “Bengal Global Business Summit” organised by the state government. The state received investment proposals worth Rs 3.42 lakh Cr. A total of 137 MoUs and Letters of Intent (LoI) were signed for the investments. During the summit, the Chief Minister launched portals on Silpa Saathi (for industries), export facilitation and self-help groups, along with a book on GI-tagged products from West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th edition of “Bengal Global Business Summit” – held on April 20 & 21
- 7 Universities of West Bengal + International & National HEIs = signed 15 MoUs
- “Silpa Saathi” portal – a single window services portal set up by West Bengal
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

Ranks, Report & Surveys

441. An imbalance in Nitrogen availability has been reported across the globe, with some places having an excess and others a shortage of the element, according to a new report. Human production of nitrogen is now five times higher than it was 60 years, according to a 2017 study. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An imbalance in Nitrogen availability is reported across the globe

Amount & Agreements

442. On April 20, India decided to provide an additional \$500 million in financial assistance to Sri Lanka for it to buy fuel. It will be the second \$500 million assistance that India provided for fuel credit to Sri Lanka battling the country's worst financial crisis in living memory. So far India has provided nearly 400,000 tons of fuel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – decided to provide an additional \$500 million in financial assistance to Sri Lanka for it to buy fuel
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



Ordinance, Bills & Acts

443. On April 19, the legislation amending the laws governing Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants and Company Secretaries has received the assent of President Ram Nath Kovind. The bill, which provides for substantial changes and ensures more transparency with respect to the functioning of the apex institutes of the three professions, was cleared by Parliament on April 5. It has amended the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959, and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980. The three institutes - Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Cost Accountants of India (formerly known as ICWAI) and Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) - will continue to have the authority for qualifying and licensing people and regulation of their conduct. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to a bill amending:
 - Chartered Accountants Act, 1949
 - Cost & Works Accountants Act, 1959
 - Company Secretaries Act, 1980
- ICAI + ICWAI + ICSI = will continue to have the authority for qualifying and licensing people

Acquisitions & Mergers

444. On April 20, HDFC Ltd signed an agreement to sell 10% of share capital in HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd (HDFC Capital) to a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for about ₹184 Cr. ADIA is also the primary investor in the alternative investment funds managed by HDFC Capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd signed an agreement to sell 10% of share capital in HDFC Capital to ADIA for ₹184 Cr
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | VC & CEO – Keki Mistry

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

445. On April 18, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh held delegation-level talks with the visiting Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Mika Lintila in New Delhi. India signed an MoU with Finland to establish a Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing. Finland would be hosting Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in 2023 and India in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Finland = an MoU to establish a Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

446. On April 21, Tripura government signed an MoU with NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre to establish an international standard Data Centre at Indiranagar, headquarters of IT Bhavan. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and CSE e-governance services Ltd, have floated a joint venture “NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre” to set up the proposed data centre. The joint venture company will invest Rs 150 Cr for setting up the data centre while the state government will provide only space. The company will charge for data exchange to other government and private players other than the state. The Data Centre will work under the control of the joint venture company. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Tripura + NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre = an MoU to establish an international standard Data Centre at Indiranagar
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

447. On April 20, an MoU was signed between the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to develop a Regional Level Early Warning System for excessive rainfall resulting in landslides. GSI proposed to share relevant and timely data on landslides to the state disaster management authority, which would go a long way in saving lives and properties of people as and when such natural disasters occur during the rainy season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim + GSI = an MoU to develop a Regional Level Early Warning System for excessive rainfall resulting in landslides
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad
- HQs of GSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – S. Raju

448. On April 20, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement to collaborate in the areas of knowledge sharing and strengthening monitoring mechanisms for the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The agreement was signed by the Secretary in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj Sunil Kumar and UNDP resident representative Shoko Noda on the final day of the Iconic Week Programme organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoPR + UNDP = an agreement for the localisation of the SDGs
- Ministry of & Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti
- HQs of UNDP – New York, US | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

449. On April 21, Indian Navy's Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology (NIETT) based at Naval Base Kochi signed an MoU with the IIM Kozhikode. Director of IIM-K Professor Debashis Chatterjee and director of NIETT Commodore Ben H. Berson signed the MoU. The MoU is intended to build collaboration and exchange of best practices in the field of Instructional Leadership, Educational Psychology and Management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIETT + IIM Kozhikode = an MoU to build collaboration & exchange of best practices
- Location of NIETT – Kochi, Kerala
- Director of IIM Kozhikode – Debashis Chatterjee

450. On April 20, Ministry of Defence signed two MoUs with Ministry of AYUSH to start Ayurveda Centres at 37 Cantonment Hospitals & 12 Military Hospitals of Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS). These MoUs were signed during the 3-day mega event, "Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit", organised at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat from April 20-22, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence + Ministry of AYUSH = two MoU to start Ayurveda Centres at 37 Cantonment & 12 AFMS
- "Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit (GAIS)" – organised at Gandhinagar, Gujarat





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