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April
CA MockDrill
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(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the MockDrill Test of April 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF अप्रैल 2021 माह में Testzone पर MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

1. The Maharashtra government has introduced a raft of strict measures like weekend and night curfews. All these new restrictions will be called “Break the Chain” instead of “Mission Begin Again”, a campaign that was launched by the state government for phase-wise reopening of lockdown last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – introduced new restrictions called “Break the Chain”
- “Mission Begin Again” campaign – was launched by Maharashtra in 2020
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

2. Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated Alignment and Awareness Event for publicity of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research - Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups and MSMEs (DSIR-PRISM) scheme at IIT Delhi. Shri Sanjay Dhotre was the Guest of Honour on this occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated Alignment & Awareness Event for publicity of “DSIR-PRISM” scheme – at IIT Delhi
- Guest of Honour on this occasion – Sanjay Dhotre
- DSIR-PRISM – Department of Scientific & Industrial Research - Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups & MSMEs

3. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has inaugurated “Anandam: The Center for Happiness” at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu. The prime activities envisaged under the concept of “Anandam: The Center for Happiness” will be divided into 5 broad categories - Counselling, Holistic wellness, Elective courses on Happiness Development, Research and Leadership & Faculty Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurated “Anandam: The Center for Happiness” – at IIM Jammu
- The concept will be divided into 5 broad categories:
 - Counseling
 - Holistic wellness
 - Elective courses on Happiness Development
 - Research and Leadership
 - Faculty Development

4. Road, Transport and Highways Ministry has published the draft rules regarding concession in Motor Vehicle Tax against scrapped vehicles. Under the draft rules, people will get 25% concession on the purchase of personal vehicles with vehicle scrappage certificate while on the purchase of commercial vehicles, the tax relief will be 15%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- People will get 25% tax concession on the purchase of personal vehicles with Vehicle Scrappage Certificate
- People will get 15% tax concession on the purchase of commercial vehicles with Vehicle Scrappage Certificate

5. TRIFED, under Ministry of Tribal Affairs is expanding its retail operations across India. The latest outlet, the 131st Tribes India Flagship Store was inaugurated in Jabalpur on March 25, 2021, making it the third outlet in the state of Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 131st Tribes India Flagship Store – inaugurated in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

6. AYUSH Ministry in collaboration with Vinoba Seva Pratishthan has successfully organized a 3-days “Ayurveda Parav” in Bhubaneswar from 26th to 28th March 2021. The 3-days event was inaugurated by Padma Vibhushan Dr Raghunath Mohapatra, Hon’ble Member of Rajya Sabha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AYUSH Ministry + Vinoba Seva Pratishthan = successfully organized a 3-days “Ayurveda Parav” in Bhubaneswar
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa
- Location of Vinoba Seva Pratishthan – Bhubaneswar, Odisha

7. On April 1, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways (I/C) Mansukh L. Mandaviya has virtually flagged off the Cruise service from Hazira Port of Surat to Diu. The cruise has a capacity of 300 passengers and has 16 cabins. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya flagged off the Cruise service – from Hazira Port of Surat to Diu
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

8. The largest US cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase with over 43 million verified will be setting up its physical office initially in Hyderabad as it prepares to establish its business presence in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Coinbase – to set up its physical office in Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of Coinbase – San Francisco, California, US | CEO – Brian Armstrong

9. A new passenger train “Mitali Express” connecting Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri city in West Bengal was inaugurated jointly by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina. This is the third passenger train after Maitree Express (Dhaka-Kolkata) and Bandhan Express (Khulna-Kolkata). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mitali Express” (3rd passenger train) – inaugurated between Dhaka & New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal)
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



10. On April 1, The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020 has been enacted after amalgamating of 13 different labour legislations and to simplify the laws regulating the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions in establishments. Ministry of Labour & Employment has set up 3 Expert Committees for suggesting standards under the OSH&WC Code, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Labour & Employment – set up 3 Expert Committees to review standards under OSH & WC Code, 2020

Committee	Chairmanship
Expert Committee for Factories and Dock Works	R. K. Elangovan
Expert Committee for the Building & Other Construction Works	P. L. N. Murthy
Expert Committee for Fire Safety	D. K. Shami

11. Government has made mandatory that a GST taxpayer having turnover of more than Rs 5 Cr in the preceding financial year will have to furnish 6 digits Harmonised System of Nomenclature HSN Code, or Service Accounting Code, SAC from tomorrow on the invoices issued for supplies of taxable goods and services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Furnishing 6 digits HSN Code or SAC is made mandatory for GST taxpayers with more than Rs 5 Cr turnover

12. On April 2, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched the “MyNEP2020” Platform of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Web Portal which will be operational from April 1 to May 15, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Education – launched the “MyNEP2020” Platform of NCTE Web Portal
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

13. The government has extended the deadline for intimating the Aadhaar number to the Income Tax Department for linking the UID number to tax payers’ PAN by another 3 months to June 30, 2021. This is the 9th time that the deadline has been extended for individuals to link their PAN with Aadhaar. The earlier deadline was March 31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New deadline for individuals to link their PAN with Aadhaar – June 30, 2021 (extended for the 9th time - by 3 months)

14. On April 2, Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) has commissioned India’s first farm-based Solar Power Project under the PM-Kusum (Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan) scheme in Kotputli having 1 megawatt capacity spread over on 3.5 acre semi-barren land. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – commissioned India’s first farm-based Solar Power Project under the PM-Kusum scheme
- PM-Kusum scheme – under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

15. Srinagar's Dal Lake along with 5 other famous ones in Jammu and Kashmir is to be declared as Protected Wetlands. The other lakes include Purmandal lake (also called Chotta Kashi, located in Samba district), Manasbal, Sanasar, Wular & Nigeen lakes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dal, Wular, Purmandal, Manasbal Sanasar, Nigeen (lakes in J&K) – declared as Protected Wetlands
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

16. The Indian Railways has logged highest-ever electrification of sections covering 6,015 Route Kilometre (RKM) in a single year during 2020-21. The Railways has planned to fully electrify its tracks by December 2023. It has surpassed the previous highest of 5,276 RKM achieved in 2018-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – logged highest-ever electrification of sections covering 6,015 RKM in a single year 2020-21
- Railways' plan to fully electrify its tracks – by December 2023
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma

17. Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam has raised Rs 150 Cr by issuing municipal bond on private placement basis using the BSE BOND platform. This is the first ever green bond issuance by a municipal corporation. The BSE BOND platform was launched in July 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (UP) – raised Rs 150 Cr by issuing municipal bond via BSE BOND platform
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE is Asia's 1st Stock Exchange Company

18. The steam engine of the 'First Passenger Train' will be installed at Thane railway station premises. The first passenger train in India ran from Mumbai (Bori Bunder) to Thane on April 16, 1853 and covered a distance of 34 km in 1 hour and 15 minutes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The steam Engine of the 'First Passenger Train' will be installed – at Thane ([Maharashtra](#))
- The 'First Passenger Train' in India ran from Mumbai to Thane on April 16, 1853

19. On April 2, The government has approved a commission under 'National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building' (NPCSCB), also known as "Mission Karmayogi", to train civil servants at all levels. Former Quality Council of India (QCI) Chief Adil Zainulbhai has been appointed as the chairperson of this Commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved a Capacity Building Commission under 'Mission Karmayogi'
- Chairperson of this Commission – Adil Zainulbhai

20. On April 2, India holds the world record for fastest road construction. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has constructed 13,394 km of highways in fiscal year 2020-21. The speed of highways construction in India has touched a record 37 km per day in financial year 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways constructed 13,394 km of highways in fiscal year 2020-21
- The speed of highways construction in India in FY 2020-21 – 37 km per day

21. On 30 March 2021, after CCRS Inspection and Commissioning of electrification of Kota – Chittaurgarh railway section (Srinagar – Jalindri) in the state of Rajasthan, West Central Railways has become the first fully Electrified Railway Zone in India. The zonal railway now boasts 3012 Route Km electrified network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Central Railways became the 1st fully Electrified Railway Zone in India
- [HQs of West Central Railways – Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh](#) | [General Manager – Shailendra K. Singh](#)

22. On April 2, Union Government has approved a Rs 780 Cr project for upgradation of Kargil Zaskar road. The 2 lane Kargil Zaskar NH 301 road is sanctioned under EPC mode. Zaskar-Kargil road was declared National Highway in 2017 by the Centre and it also connects Suru valley, Sankoo valley of Kargil Ladakh with the Highway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved a Rs 780 Cr project for upgradation of Kargil Zaskar road
- Zaskar-Kargil road was declared National Highway – in 2017

23. With the change in season and rise in temperature, Culex or common House Mosquitoes have made reappearance across Delhi. Culex mosquitoes are known carriers of Japanese encephalitis, a potentially life-threatening but rare viral disease that causes acute inflammation of the brain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Culex mosquitoes – made reappearance across Delhi
- Culex mosquitoes are known carriers of “Japanese Encephalitis”

24. On April 1, Walmart-owned PhonePe has crossed 1 billion UPI (unified payments interface) transactions. Its total transactions for last month across UPI, cards and wallet were 1.3 billion in March. PhonePe recently crossed the 280-million registered user milestone. The UPI has broken a new record, crossing Rs 5 trillion in value in March across 2.73 billion transactions, according to the NPCI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe – crossed 1 billion UPI transactions in March (Total transactions across UPI, cards and wallet - 1.3 billion)
- [HQs of PhonePE – Bangalore, Karnataka](#) | [MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam](#) | [Founded in – 2015](#)

25. On April 4, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has approved the “National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021” which aims to lower the high cost of treatment for rare diseases. A provision for financial support up to Rs 20 lakh under the Umbrella Scheme of Rastriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) is proposed for the treatment of those rare diseases that require a one-time treatment. A National Consortium will be set up with the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as convenor for indigenous research of Rare Diseases. 8 health facilities will be designated as Centre of Excellence (CoE) and these will also be provided one-time financial support of up to Rs 5 Cr for upgradation of diagnostics facilities. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – approved the “National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021”
- Financial support up to Rs 20 lakh is proposed under the Umbrella Scheme of Rastriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)
- A National Consortium will be set up with the Department of Health Research
- 8 health facilities will be designated as Centre of Excellence (CoE) – with financial support of up to Rs 5 Cr

26. TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched “Sankalp se Siddhi” - Village & Digital Connect Drive. Starting from April 1, 2021, this 100 day drive will entail 150 teams visiting 10 villages each. The main aim of this drive is to set up the ‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendras’ with the help of its MSP for MFP scheme in these villages. Van Dhan Yojana was launched in 2018 with 75% funds from central government while 25% funds from state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED – launched “Sankalp se Siddhi” - Village & Digital Connect Drive
- This 100 day drive will entail 150 teams visiting 10 villages each
- The main aim of this drive is to set up the ‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendras’ with the help of its MSP for MFP scheme
- [TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs \(Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand\)](#)
- [HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Launched in – 1987](#)

27. The Road Transport Ministry has brought in effect the ‘National Register’ for Driving Licenses (DLs) from March 31 to weed out duplicate driving licenses. While, most of the States’ driving licenses are already on the “Sarathi” portal of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Road Transport Ministry – brought in effect the ‘National Register’ for Driving Licenses (DLs) from March 31
- “Sarathi” portal of NIC – associated with Driving Licenses
- [HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma](#)

28. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED) has launched 2 competitions - “Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India” and “Be a ‘Friend’ of TRIBES INDIA” in association with MyGov.in with the sole objective of promoting tribal craft, culture and lifestyle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + MyGov.in = launched “Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India” & “Be a ‘Friend’ of TRIBES INDIA”
- [TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs \(Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand\)](#)
- [HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Launched in – 1987](#)

29. West Bengal accounts for the highest collection of about Rs 90,000 Cr from Small Savings Schemes such as NSC and PPF among the states and UTs, which is about 15% of the total corpus. It is followed by Uttar Pradesh with gross collection of Rs 69,660.70 Cr, as per data collated by the National Savings Institute under the finance ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – accounts for the highest collection of about Rs 90,000 Cr from Small Savings Schemes as NSC & PPF
- 2nd – Uttar Pradesh (Rs 69,660.70 Cr)
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar](#)



30. Punjab Cabinet has approved the establishment of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) to check illegal mining in Punjab. The ED will be set up in the mining and geology wing of the water resources department and it will be headed by a senior police officer not below the rank of deputy inspector general of police (DIG). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab Cabinet – approved the establishment of an Enforcement Directorate to check illegal mining in Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

31. On April 5, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan has virtually launched the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP). This platform will track 33 diseases. India is the first country in the world to adopt such an advanced disease surveillance system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – launched the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) (India is the 1st country)
- This platform will track 33 diseases

32. On April 7, The Supreme Court has unveiled its Artificial Intelligence (AI) portal “SUPACE” (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court’s Efficiency), designed to make research easier for judges, thereby easing their workload. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court unveiled its AI portal “SUPACE” (Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court’s Efficiency)
- 48th Chief Justice of India – Justice N. V. Ramana

33. On April 6, Markets regulator SEBI has modified its framework pertaining to contribution of asset management companies (AMCs) for setting up of Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) by mutual funds. As per the newly issued guidelines, AMCs are required to contribute ₹150 Cr as share capital for setting up of LPCC by mutual funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AMCs are required to contribute ₹150 Cr as share capital for setting up of LPCC by mutual funds
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

34. The Supreme Court-appointed committee on the 3 contentious Central Farm Laws has submitted its report to the Supreme Court. Anil Ghanvat, Ashok Gulati and Pramod Kumar Joshi are part of the committee. The three contentious farm laws are: Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court-appointed committee on 3 contentious Central Farm Laws – submitted its report to the SC
- Members of the committee - Anil Ghanvat, Ashok Gulati and Pramod Kumar Joshi
- Three contentious Farm Laws:
 - Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act
 - Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance & Farm Services Act
 - Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act

35. On April 7, The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), a flagship programme of the Central government, has achieved 92% target of its 1st phase i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19. The government is confident that all the houses in the Permanent Wait List (PWL) would be completed by the end of Amrut Mahtosava. PMAY-G scheme is monitored through MIS-AwaasSoft & Awaas App. The minimum size of a house under the scheme is 25 Square metre. The cost is shared between Central & State government in the ratio 60:40. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PMAY-G – achieved 92% target of its 1st phase i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19
- PMAY-G – launched in 2015 | PMAY-G scheme is monitored through – MIS-AwaasSoft & Awaas App
- Minimum size of a house under PMAY-G scheme – 25 Sqm | Cost shared between Central & State gov – 60:40

36. On April 6, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha have launched two mobile applications “Hamari Sadak” and “Tameer Taraqqi” which will allow residents to register and track their grievances. It will strengthen the e-Governance structure and enhancing transparency in its Public Works System. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – launched two mobile applications “Hamari Sadak” & “Tameer Taraqqi”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

37. On April 7, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched “Madhukranti portal” and “Honey Corners” of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) in New Delhi. Madhukranti portal is an initiative of National Bee Board. An MoU between National Bee Board and Indian Bank was signed for this project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – launched “Madhukranti portal” & “Honey Corners” of NAFED – in New Delhi
- National Bee Board + Indian Bank = an MoU for this project
- HQs of National Bee Board (NBB) – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chunduru | ED – Imran Amin Siddiqui

38. On April 7, ReNew Power has planned to invest \$9 billion in wind and solar projects by 2025 amid a government-backed effort to reduce emissions. The company aims to more than triple its renewable power capacity to 18.5 GW by 2025. India is the world’s third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power – planned to invest \$9 billion in wind & solar projects by 2025
- Company’s aim: To more than triple its renewable power capacity to 18.5 GW by 2025
- India – world’s 3rd biggest emitter of Greenhouse Gases
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

39. On April 7, India’s Military farms have been closed after 132 years of service. The farms were set up with the sole requirement of supplying hygienic cow milk to troops in garrisons across British India. The first military farm was raised on February 1, 1889 at Allahabad. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Military farms have been closed after 132 years of service
- The first military farm was raised – on February 1, 1889 at Allahabad

40. On April 6, While addressing at “National Dialogue on Manufacturing Excellence and Innovation for Competitiveness and Sustainability of Chemicals Manufacturing” in New Delhi, D V Sadananda Gowda has stated that Indian chemicals industry is expected to reach USD 304 billion by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian chemicals industry is expected to reach \$304 billion by 2025
- [Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers – D. V. Sadananda Gowda \(Constituency – Bangalore, Karnataka\)](#)

41. On April 5, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a Rs 25 Cr penalty on the promoters of Reliance Industries, including Mukesh Ambani, for failure to comply with the share takeover disclosures of the regulator. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – imposed a Rs 25 Cr penalty on the promoters of Reliance Industries
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992](#)
- [HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973](#)

42. On April 1, The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) has extended the timelines for the majority of coal-based power plants in India to comply with the emission norms by another 3-4 years. This is the 3rd amendment to the notification that first came in 2015. Another 5-year extension was given to power plants to meet the deadlines in a phased manner till December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MOEF&CC – extended the timelines for the majority of coal-based power plants in India (3rd amendment)
- 5-year extension was given to power plants to meet the deadlines – by December 2022

43. On April 9, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has chaired a high-level meeting on the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and released an implementation plan for school education called “Students' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement through Quality Education (SARTHAQ)” for next 10 years. SARTHAQ is developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal – launched “SARTHAQ” - an implementation plan for school education for next 10 years
- SARTHAQ – developed by the Department of School Education & Literacy

44. On April 9, The Ministry of Civil Aviation has accorded conditional exemption to Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI) to use of drones for surveying coalfield areas of Coal India Ltd for acquiring data for monitoring of various activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Civil Aviation – allowed Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI) to use of drones for surveys
- [HQs of CMPDI – Ranchi, Jharkhand | CMD – Sekhar Saran](#)
- [MoS for Ministry of Civil Aviation – Hardeep Singh Puri](#)



45. PM Narendra Modi has called for 'Mass Vaccination Programme' from 11th to 14th of this month and observe as 'Vaccination Festival' or 'Tika Utsav'. 11th April is the birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule and 14th is the birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi called for 'Mass Vaccination Programme' from 11th to 14th & observed as 'Tika Utsav'
- 11th April – birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule
- 14th April – birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar

46. On April 6, The Haryana government has approved allotment of 140 acres of land to Flipkart for setting up Asia's Largest Fulfilment Centre at Gurugram, Haryana. Instakart is also planning to set up a series of fulfilment centres and associated logistics infrastructure across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana approved allotment of 140 acres of land to Flipkart – to set up Asia's Largest Fulfilment Centre – at Gurugram
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)
- [HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy](#)

47. On April 9, India's fuel demand has contracted by a massive 9.1% in the financial year ended on March 31 due to COVID-19 lockdown. This is the first time fuel consumption has contracted since 1998-99. Diesel consumption fell 12% while petrol demand shrank 6.7%. India has consumed 194.63 million tonnes of petroleum products in 2020-21 as compared with 214.12 million tonnes demand in the previous year. LPG was the only fuel that registered growth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's fuel demand has contracted by a massive 9.1% in FY2020-21 (Diesel – 12% | Petrol – 6.7%)
- India consumed 194.63 million tonnes of petroleum products in 2020-21
- The only fuel that registered growth – LPG

48. On April 9, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has dedicated to the nation the Hansdiha-Godda new rail line and also flagged off "God-da-New Delhi Humsafar Express" Superfast Special Train. The length of the new line project is 32 km with speed potential of 120 kmph. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – flagged off "God-da-New Delhi Humsafar Express" Superfast Special Train (Length – 32 km)
- [God-da is located in – Jharkhand](#)
- [Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu](#)

49. On April 9, SBI Mutual Fund (MF) has become the first mutual fund company to cross Rs 5 lakh Cr mark in the March quarter. The fund house's Average Asset Under Management (AAUM) rose to Rs 5.04 lakh Cr in 2020-21 from Rs 3.73 lakh Cr in the preceding fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Mutual Fund – became the 1st MF company to cross Rs 5 lakh Cr mark in the March quarter (Rs 5.04 lakh Cr)
- [HQs of SBI Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vinay M. Tonse](#)

50. On April 9, On April 10, NITI Aayog, in association with Agami and Omidyar Network India and with the support of ICICI Bank has launched the first-of-its kind Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) handbook in India. The handbook is an invitation to business leaders to adopt ODR in India. ODR is the resolution of disputes outside courts, particularly of small and medium-value cases. It was released by Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + Agami & Omidyar Network India + ICICI Bank = launched the first-of-its kind “ODR Handbook”
- ODR – Online Dispute Resolution
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

51. On April 9, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched 14-day “Mask Abhiyan” as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus in view of rising cases and urged people to strictly follow the safety guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched 14-day “Mask Abhiyan” to prevent the spread of coronavirus
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

52. On April 10, Kerala Government has launched a mass vaccination drive, named “Crushing the curve” to contain the Covid19 pandemic. Under the ‘Crushing the Curve’ drive, it is planned to vaccinate maximum number of people in the age group 45 to 60. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched a mass vaccination drive, named “Crushing the curve” to contain the Covid19
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

53. On April 7, The Ministry of External Affairs in association with Protector of Emigrants (POE) Mumbai, has launched the first online Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Programme for migrant workers. Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA) addressed the participants and emphasized the importance of PDO training for ensuring safe and legal migration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of External Affairs – launched the 1st online Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Programme
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

54. On April 10, Three out of every 1,000 pregnant women in Meghalaya are testing positive for HIV/AIDS. Mr. Shangliang lamented the “slow fund flow” from the Centre for the scheme to rehabilitate sex workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3/1,000 pregnant women in Meghalaya are testing positive for HIV/AIDS
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik



55. On April 10, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued draft proposals on regulatory framework to promote sustainable and healthy development of trade credit insurance for businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – proposed guidelines on ‘Trade Credit Insurance’
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

56. On April 8, ReNew Power has pledged to achieve Net-Zero Emission in India by 2050. The ReNew's pledge aligns with the ‘Race To Zero’ campaign of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power – pledged to achieve Net-Zero Emission in India by 2050
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

57. On April 9, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured an order to set up a 1.5 Gigawatt (GW) Solar Plant in Riyadh Province, Saudi Arabia. This Sudair Solar Photovoltaic Project will be the largest solar plant in Saudi Arabia with estimated cost between Rs 5000-7000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L&T – secured an order to set up a 1.5 GW Sudair Solar Photovoltaic Project – in Riyadh Province, Saudi Arabia
- HQs L&T – Mumbai | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam

58. On April 5, WazirX has launched India's first marketplaces for Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT) for auctioning digital assets. Indian creators can now place their digital assets for auction over the blockchain-based NFT marketplace and earn royalty thereafter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WazirX – launched India's first marketplaces for Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT) for auctioning digital assets
- HQs of WazirX – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nischal Shetty

59. On April 8, Hindustan Unilever, Google and MyGov India have come together to find innovative solutions to conserve freshwater usage and to address water scarcity problems in India by involving start-ups. In collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), they conducted a Hackathon to explore use of AI in agriculture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hindustan Unilever + Google + MyGov India = to conserve freshwater usage & to address water scarcity problems
- Above three + MeitY = conducted a Hackathon to explore use of AI in agriculture
- HQs of HUL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sanjiv Mehta
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

60. On April 8, Ethanol blending in India has for the first time reached more than 7.2% in the first 4 months of the ethanol supply year 2020-21 (December to November). India has set a target of 10% blending by 2022 & 20% blending by 2025. Ethanol-blending is the process of mixing Ethanol with Petrol to reduce vehicular pollution. Food Grains can also be converted into Ethanol. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ethanol blending in India has first time reached more than 7.2% in the first 4 months of ethanol supply year
- Target: 10% blending by – 2022 & 20% blending by – 2025

61. On April 12, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sanctioned Road Development Projects of 291 km worth Rs 726 Cr for Madhya Pradesh. Balance work of Sidhi-Singrauli highway has been sanctioned in the state of Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs 529.44 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways – sanctioned Road Development Projects for Madhya Pradesh
- Length of the Project – 291 km | Worth – Rs 726 Cr
- Sidhi-Singrauli Highway ([Madhya Pradesh](#)) – sanctioned Rs 529.44 Cr
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

62. On April 10, The Kerala High Court has recognised a child born to a couple in a live-in relationship to be treated as a child born to a married couple in regards to surrendering a child for adoption. The High Court bench comprising of Justices A Muhamed Mustaque and Dr Kauser Edappagath, made the ruling. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala High Court recognised – Child born to live-in couple to be considered as child born to married couples
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

63. On April 11, Sikkim and Tripura have planned to provide tap water connections to all rural households by March 2022 and 2023 respectively. The scheme aims to ensure assured tap water supply, or 'Har Ghar Jal', to all rural households by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim – planned to provide tap water connections to all rural households by March 2022
- Tripura – planed to provide tap water connections to all rural households by March 2023
- [Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad](#)
- [Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

64. On April 13, With an aim to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country, NITI Aayog has launched India "Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0". This includes monthly data and API linked data from some portals maintained by the government agencies. Niti Aayog had launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – launched India "Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0"
- The "IED Version 1.0" was launched – in May 2017



- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

65. On April 13, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal has virtually launched “e-SANTA” (Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture), an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and the buyers. National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – lauched “e-SANTA” web portal
- E-SANTA – Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture
- NaCSA – an arm of MPEDA
- e-SANTA will RAISE the lives & income of farmers by:
 - Reducing Risk
 - Awareness of Products & Markets
 - Increase in Income
 - Shielding Against Wrong Practice
 - Ease of Processes

66. On April 13, The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted approval to Russia’s coronavirus vaccine “Sputnik-V” for restricted use in India. “Sputnik V” is the 3rd COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) and the DCGI after ‘Covishield’ and ‘Covaxin’ vaccines. With this approval, India has become the 60th country to approve ‘Sputnik V’ vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia’s coronavirus vaccine “Sputnik V” – the 3rd COVID-19 vaccine approved by – the SEC & DCGI
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani

67. On April 12, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has released a commemorative postage stamp in the memory of former Chief of Brahma Kumaris Rajyogini Dadi Janki in New Delhi. Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was also present on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Venkaiah Naidu – released a commemorative postage stamp in the memory of “Dadi Janki” in New Delhi
- Dadi Janki – Former Chief of Brahma Kumaris Rajyogini

68. On April 11, The Arhtiyas or Commission Agents withdrew their strike after Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh assured them that they would remain an integral part of the procurement system. Around 40,000 Arhtiyas across the State had gone on strike to protest against the direct benefit transfer (DBT) of the minimum support price (MSP) to farmers for their crops. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arhtiyas or Commission Agents – withdrew their strike over MSP – in Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

69. On April 12, India has banned the export of anti-viral drug 'Remdesivir' and its active pharmaceutical ingredients as demand rocketed due to a record surge in Covid-19 infections, leading to shortages in many parts of India. Remdesivir is made by US pharma giant Gilead. It was first manufactured in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – banned the export of anti-viral drug 'Remdesivir' due to shortages in many parts of India
- It was first manufactured in – 2014

70. On April 12, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has launched "75 series" Pension awareness programme to mark 75 years of India's independence. The other "75" related activities would be the imparting of training on "Bhavishya" (Online Pension Sanction Module) through 75 offices of the Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Jitendra Singh – launched "75 series" Pension awareness programme to mark 75 years of India's independence

71. On April 12, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue. The dialogue was held virtually from April 13 to 16, 2021. The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on Geopolitics and Geo-economics, held annually since 2016. It is jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation. The theme for the 2021 Edition is "#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue (held annually since 2016)
- Theme – "#ViralWorld: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control"

72. On April 13, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched a "National Nursery Portal" to connect nursery operators with consumers. The Portal is developed by the National Horticulture Board (NHB) and it will help consumers to connect with nurseries and get information about the availability and prices of quality planting material. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – launched a "National Nursery Portal" – developed by National Horticulture Board
- HQs of NHB – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD – Rajbir Singh

73. On April 12, The IRDAI has notified the extension of its Regulatory Sandbox by another 2 years to enable the completion of the experiment of the existing sandbox proposals and also to allow new sandbox proposals for the experiment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – notified the extension of its Regulatory Sandbox by another 2 years
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

74. On April 9, The IRDAI has eased the rules for Indian insurers investing in domestic Fund of Funds (FoF) including those which back startups. Insurers are not allowed to invest in fund of funds that invest in overseas companies. No investment is permitted into Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) which undertake leverage or borrowing other than to meet day-to-day operational requirements and as permitted under SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IRDAI eased the rules for Indian insurers investing in domestic Fund of Funds (FoF)
- Insurers are not allowed to invest in Fund of Funds (FoF) that invest in overseas companies
- **HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur**

75. On April 12, Dr Harsh Vardhan has chaired ICMR's International Symposium titled "One Health in India: Research informing biosafety, preparedness and response" through video conference. He launched a special issue of ICMR's Indian Journal of Medical Research which discusses the One Health approach. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – chaired ICMR's International Symposium titled "One Health in India: Research informing biosafety, preparedness and response"
- **HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911**
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi)**

76. On April 12, Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched a new mission called "Aahaar Kranti" with the motto of 'Uttam Aahaar Uttam Vichaar' or 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'. The "Aahaar Kranti" movement is designed to address the peculiar problem being faced by India and the world called 'hunger and diseases in abundance'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – launched a new mission called "Aahaar Kranti"
- Motto of the mission – 'Uttam Aahaar Uttam Vichaar' or 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'

77. On April 13, NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University have launched "Poshan Gyan" website, a national digital repository on Health and Nutrition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – launched "Poshan Gyan" website - a National Digital Repository on Health and Nutrition
- **HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant**
- **Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar**

78. On April 12, India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) has arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal in Maharashtra. This will also be the first year-round Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Maharashtra. The LNG terminal is located at JSW Jaigarh Port in Ratnagiri district. The port is the first deep water, 24x7 operational private port in Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st Floating Storage & Regasification Unit – arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal – in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra
- **Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari**

79. On April 12, The Haryana government has approved purchase of 200 acre of land for setting up of the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in Rewari. The committee has approved the purchase of 200 acre at the rate of ₹40 lakh per acre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – approved purchase of 200 acre of land for setting up of the AIIMS – in Rewari
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

80. On April 11, The popular 3-day annual “Sangken” festival began on April 14 marking the beginning of Theravada Buddhist New Year. Theravada Buddhist community in Arunachal Pradesh celebrates this festival which is also known as “Water Festival”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sangken festival (Water Festival) – marked the beginning of ‘Theravada Buddhist New Year’ – in Arunachal Pradesh
- Theravada Buddhist community in Arunachal Pradesh celebrates this festival
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra](#)

81. On April 14, Complaints of atrocities against Scheduled Castes can now be registered with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) through its online portal “NCSC Grievance Management Portal” launched by Ravi Shankar Prasad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – launched “NCSC Grievance Management Portal” – for Scheduled Castes (SC)
- [HQs of NCSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Vijay Sampla](#)

82. On April 14, The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan has virtually launched the “MANAS” App to promote Mental well-being among citizens. ‘MANAS’ which stands for ‘Mental Health and Normalcy Augmentation System’ was endorsed as a national program by the Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K Vijay Raghavan – launched the “MANAS” App to promote Mental well-being among citizens
- MANAS – Mental Health And Normalcy Augmentation System
- [Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India – K. Vijay Raghavan](#)

83. On April 15, The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted an 8-member National Task Force to combat air pollution and monitor remedial steps to improve air quality. The Bench is headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel. India targets 20-30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NGT – constituted an 8-member National Task Force to combat air pollution
- The Bench is headed by – Adarsh Kumar Goel
- India targets 20-30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations under NCAP – by 2024
- [Chairperson of NGT – Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel | The National Green Tribunal Act – 2010](#)

84. As on April 14, India has operationalised 75,532 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres so far and is on track to functionalize 1.5 lakh HWCs by December 2022. PM Narendra Modi had inaugurated the first such Health and Wellness Centre at Jangla, Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India operationalised 75,532 Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres
- India will functionalize 1.5 lakh HWCs – by Dec 2022
- First such Health & Wellness Centre was inaugurated in 2018 – at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh

85. On April 14, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have collaborated to empower Atal Tinkering Lab school students for world class future ready innovation skills across India. They will empower & mentor school student innovators across the country through AICTE Institution Innovation councils (IICs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM + AICTE = collaboration to empower Atal Tinkering Lab school students through AICTE IICs
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Ramanan Ramanathan)
- HQs of AICTE – New Delhi | Chairman – Anil D. Sahasrabudhe
- AICTE – functions under Ministry of Education

86. The Directorate of Archives and Archaeology (DAA) of the Goa government inaugurated the Advanced Antiquities Management System on March 30 that it claimed was the first such system in the country for storage of antiquities. The system catalogues 83 antiquities at present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – inaugurated the “Advanced Antiquities Management System” – the 1st such system for storage of antiquities
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

87. On April 21, ETMONEY, has launched an Aadhaar-based SIP payments feature. With this, anyone can now start a mutual fund Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) online and set up automatic payments using an Aadhaar-based OTP (one-time password) verification. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ETMONEY – launched an Aadhaar-based SIP payments feature
- HQs of ETMONEY – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Mukesh Kalra

88. On April 15, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has inaugurated 3 path breaking initiatives for National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) - “IP Guru, NIXI Academy & NIXI-IP-Index” to adapt Internet Protocol v6 (IPv6). With this launch, NIXI has announced to play a supporting role for the IPv6 awareness and adoption in India along with DOT & MeitY. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – inaugurated 3 initiatives for NIXI - IP Guru, NIXI Academy & NIXI-IP-Index – to adapt IPv6
- Address size of IPv6 – 128 bits
- Chairman of NIXI – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | Founded in – 2003
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Constituency – Patna Sahib, Bihar)

89. On April 15, The Common Services Center (CSC) and Tata Power have entered in to a tie-up to set up Solar-Powered Micro Grids and Water Pumps in rural areas across India. Tata Power plans to set up 10,000 micro grids which will be supported by CSC's village level entrepreneurs. Under the partnership, over 3.75 lakh CSCs will be involved in supplying solar water pumps to farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSC + Tata Power = a tie-up to set up Solar-Powered Micro Grids & Water Pumps in rural areas across India
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | CEO – Praveer Sinha

90. On April 15, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the 'EatSmart Cities Challenge' and 'Transport 4 All Challenge' through video conferencing. EatSmart Cities Challenge is an opportunity for India to play a pioneering role in developing the concept of integrating food systems into city planning and development. The Transport 4 All Challenge aims to bring together cities, citizen groups, and start-ups to develop solutions that improve public transport. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri ([MoHUA](#)) – launched the 'EatSmart Cities Challenge' & 'Transport 4 All Challenge'

91. On April 13, Kabira Mobility, the Goa-based EV start-up has recently announced the launch of its first high-speed commercial delivery electric scooter, "Hermes 75". The scooter has been priced at ₹89,600. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kabira Mobility ([Goa](#)) – launched its first high-speed commercial delivery electric scooter "Hermes 75"
- Cost of the scooter – ₹89,600

92. On April 16, Infosys has formed an Environmental Social and Governance Committee (ESG Committee) under the chairmanship of Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. The past year saw Infosys turn carbon neutral 30 years ahead of 2050, the timeline set by the Paris Agreement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Infosys formed ESG Committee under the chairmanship of – Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Salil Parekh

93. On April 16, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has approved Rs 50.30 Cr for developing all-weather ROPAX (Roll-on/Roll-off Passenger) Jetty on river Dhamra in Odisha under the Sagarmala initiative. The total capital cost of the project is Rs 110.60 Cr in which another 50% cost is born by Odisha government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoPSW – approved Rs 50.30 Cr for developing all-weather "ROPAX Jetty" – on river Dhamra in Odisha
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

94. The SEBI has issued guidelines for Warehousing Norms for Agriculture & Non-Agriculture goods. The guidelines would come into effect from June 1, 2021. An accredited WSPs (Warehouse Service Providers) should have a minimum subscribed and paid-up share capital of Rs 10 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – issued guidelines for Warehousing Norms for Agriculture & Non-Agriculture goods
- Minimum paid-up capital needed to be accredited as a WSPs – Rs 10 Cr
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

95. The Union Commerce and Industry Ministry has announced extension of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) of Government of India for 6 months till September 2021. The present Policy came into force on 1st April 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Commerce & Industry Ministry – extended the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) – for 6 months (till Sep 2021)
- The present Policy came into force on 1st April 2015

96. Italy has launched its first ever Mega Food Park Project in India involving food processing facilities. Ambassador of Italy to India, Vincenzo de Luca, and the Ambassador of India to Italy, Neena Malothra were part of the launch. A Letter of Intent was signed between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Italy – launched its first ever Mega Food Park Project in India
- Ambassador of India to Italy – Neena Malothra
- Fanidhar Mega Food Park – Gujarat
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

97. April 8, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) have agreed to work together on implementing the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme to support Self Help Group (SHG) entrepreneurs in food processing. Centrally Sponsored Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme will be implemented over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 10,000 Cr. The Scheme provides Rs 40,000 as working capital for each member of Self Help Groups (SHG). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoFPI + DAY-NRLM = to work together on implementing the PM-FME Scheme
- PM FME Scheme will be implemented over a period of 5 years | Outlay – Rs 10,000 Cr | Launched in – 2020
- PM FME Scheme provides Rs 40,000 as working capital for each member of SHG
- Narendra Singh Tomar – Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Morena, MP)



98. The Rajasthan government has approved a proposal to give relaxation in the maximum age limit to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) candidates like other reserved categories for appointment to state services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – approved a proposal to give relaxation in the maximum age limit to the EWS candidates
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

99. On April 12, In a bid to attain self-reliance in container production amid a global surge in demand, India has decided to develop Bhavnagar in Gujarat as a container hub and has set up pilot projects for its manufacturing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government decided to develop Bhavnagar ([Gujarat](#)) as a Container Hub
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

100. On April 22, The Nagaland government has decided to form a Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) involving all traditional tribal bodies and, civil society organisations for taking an exercise to register the State's indigenous inhabitants. The JCC will be headed by Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – decided to form a JCC for taking an exercise to register the State's indigenous inhabitants
- [Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi](#)

101. On April 17, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju have inaugurated a "Water Sports and Adventure Institute" on the bank of the Tehri lake. Built at a cost of Rs 20 Cr, the institute will be run by the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Water Sports and Adventure Institute" is inaugurated – on Tehri lake, in Uttarakhand
- It will be run by – ITBP | Cost of building it – Rs 20 Cr
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

102. On April 15, India has an overall shortfall of 76.1% specialist doctors at the Community Health Centres (CHCs) in rural areas, according to the latest Union Health Ministry data. Moreover, as compared to the requirement for existing infrastructure, there is a shortfall of 78.9 per cent of surgeons, 69.7 per cent of obstetricians & gynecologists, 78.2 per cent of physicians, and 78.2 per cent of pediatricians. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has an overall shortfall of 76.1% specialist doctors at the Community Health Centres (CHCs) in rural areas

103. Adani Group has crossed the \$100 billion Market Capital, making it the 4th Indian business house after Tata, HDFC and Reliance to cross this milestone. Tata Group and Reliance Mukesh Ambani group gained 99% and 65% in market cap in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Group – crossed the \$100 billion Market Capital (4th Indian company/organisation)
- [HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani](#)



104. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has hired SBI Caps Ltd to act as Transaction Advisor for the privatisation of the container terminal run by the port authority itself. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Caps Ltd – appointed as Transaction Advisor of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Navi Mumbai, MH)
- HQs of SBI Caps Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Varsha Purandare

105. On April 18, The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has sanctioned 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plants for installation in public health facilities in all states to increase oxygen capacity in India. These will augment medical oxygen capacity by 154.19 MT (metric tonne). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHFW – sanctioned 162 “Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plants” for installation in public health facilities
- These will augment medical oxygen capacity – by 154.19 MT

106. Tourism and Culture Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel has inaugurated the first-ever online exhibition on Ramayana. He addressed a webinar “India's Heritage: Powering Tourism” on the occasion of World Heritage Day 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prahlaad Singh Patel – inaugurated the first-ever online exhibition on Ramayana
- Prahlaad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

107. BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda has asked party functionaries to launch “Apna Booth Corona Mukta” (Our booth is free of corona) campaign amid a huge surge in the COVID-19 cases across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JP Nadda (BJP President) – asked party functionaries to launch “Apna Booth Corona Mukta” campaign

108. On April 17, The right to privacy of an individual and the reputation earned during their lifetime extinguishes after death, and therefore, neither of them can be inherited by the legal heirs of the deceased, as is the case with immovable and movable properties, according to Madras High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madras High Court: Right to privacy & reputation of an individual extinguishes after death
- Present Chief Justice of Madras High Court – Justice Sanjib Banerjee

109. On April 17, The Gallantry Awards participants from all over India to recommend unique and innovative tributes to salute the bravehearts of the nation. The competition is being held from 15th April to 15th May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gallantry Awards portal – organised an “Innovative Tributes to Bravehearts” competition

110. On April 20, Rajasthan government has announced a Jan Anushasan Pakhwara (JAP), or the Public Discipline Fortnight. Only shops and offices providing essential services will open during the 15-day period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – announced a Jan Anushasan Pakhwara (JAP) (Public Discipline Fortnight)
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

111. On April 19, Given the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases, Indian Railways will operate 'Oxygen Express' trains to transport Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and Oxygen Cylinders for patients across India, using green corridors for expeditious delivery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – to operate 'Oxygen Express' trains to transport Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) & Oxygen Cylinders
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma](#)

112. On April 20, Cryptocurrency exchange "Bitex" has started providing investment declaration reports for all its retail and institutional investors, becoming the first exchange in India to comply with the recent amendments made to the Companies Act 2013 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bitex ([UAE](#)) – 1st exchange in India to provide investment declaration reports for all its investors to Indian Tax authority

113. On April 20, Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde has recently appreciated the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Goa, the only state to have one. The UCC is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy under Article 44. The Law Commission had concluded in 2018 that a UCC is neither desirable nor feasible. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde appreciated the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) – in Goa (the only state)
- The UCC is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy – under Article 44
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

114. On April 18, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has extended the License Validity of 8 Medical Devices for additional 6 months. These 8 medical items have come into effect from 1st April, 2021 under Medical Devices Rules 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CDSCO extended the License Validity of 8 Medical Devices for additional 6 months
- [The Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\) – V G Somani](#)

115. On April 20, The Union Cabinet has approved an exclusive subsidy policy for Urea produced through Coal Gasification Route by Talcher Fertilizers Ltd (TFL). TFL is a joint venture company of 4 PSUs namely Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF), GAIL (India) Ltd, Coal India Ltd and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd (FCI) reviving the sick unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd by setting up a new Greenfield Urea Plant at an estimated cost Rs 13,277 Cr. Union Cabinet also gave approval for Amendments to Finance Bill, 2021 that provides a 10-year income tax exemption to the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID). The cabinet also gave approval to Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase 2A & Phase 2B. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TFL = RCF + GAIL + CIL + FCI
- A new subsidy of Rs 13,277 Cr will be provided to TFL for setting up Greenfield Urea Plant
- Amendments to “Finance Bill, 2021” provides – 10-year income tax exemption to the NBFID
- Cabinet also gave approval to Phase 2A & Phase 2B of – Bangalore Metro Rail Project

116. On April 20, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) has decided to install plant to manufacture oxygen at its unit located in Kalol, Gandhinagar. The plant will have the capacity to produce 200 cubic meter of oxygen per hour. IFFCO's oxygen plant in Kalol will generate medical-grade oxygen. It will be able to fill up 700 D-type and 300 B-type cylinders every day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFFCO – decided to install plant to manufacture oxygen at its unit located in Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Capacity – 200 cubic meter oxygen per hour
- Total 4 Units will be established: Kalol (Gujarat), Aonla & Phulpur (UP), Paradeep (Odisha)
- [HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | Chairman – Balvinder Singh Nakai](#)
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

117. On April 20, Mining firm Vedanta Ltd has launched the “Vedanta Saathi” programme for the MSME sector. The programme comes with a variety of offerings for the MSMEs such as an e-commerce portal, channel financing through banks, NBFCs and fintech firms at attractive rates, and a dedicated MSME website. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vedanta Ltd – launched the “Vedanta Saathi” programme for the MSME sector
- [HQs of Vedanta Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Sunil Duggal](#)

118. On April 20, Chandigarh Smart City Limited has drafted the first-of-its-kind Cycling Policy. The draft policy views cycling as a major alternate mode of transport for short distances, and the provision for safer and better section of roads or cycle tracks is the best way to promote it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandigarh – drafted the first-of-its-kind “Cycling Policy”

119. The “Infant Toddler and Caregiver-friendly Neighbourhoods (ITCN) Training and Capacity Building Programme” was launched by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in partnership with Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF). The training is proposed to be delivered through well-structured training modules, provided online through National Urban Learning Platform (NULP), the platform developed for knowledge dissemination by MoHUA and NIUA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIUA + BvLF = launched “Infant Toddler & Caregiver-friendly Neighbourhoods Training & Capacity Building Program”
- [HQs of NIUA – New Delhi | Director – Hitesh Vaidya](#)
- [HQs of BvLF – The Hague, Netherlands | Chief Executive – Michael Feigelson](#)



120. On April 21, As part of Indian Railways' project of redeveloping stations across the country, the Indian Railways Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) has developed a first-of-its-kind 'form-based codes' for the commercial development of railway land, as per the guidebook issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRSDC – developed a first-of-its-kind 'form-based codes' for the commercial development of Railway land
- It is done as per the guidebook issued by – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- HQs of IRSDC – New Delhi | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar | CEO & MD – S K Lohia

121. On April 20, Ms Rita Teatia (Chairperson of FSSAI) has virtually inaugurated the 5th edition of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH). The CCSCH has finalised and recommended quality standards for 4 spices - Cloves, Oregano, Basil and Ginger. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ms Rita Teatia – inaugurated the 5th edition of the Codex Committee on Spices & Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)
- CCSCH – finalised & recommended quality standards for 4 spices - Cloves, Oregano, Basil & Ginger
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatia | CEO – Shri Arun Singhal
- HQs of Spice Board of India – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – D. Sathiyam

122. On April 20, The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is the first party that has declared the name of the entity which made donations to it through electoral bonds. A declaration of a ₹1 Cr donation was made in the party's 2019-20 contribution report. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) – the first party to declare the name of the donor of the Electoral Bonds
- Amount of declaration made in the party's 2019-20 contribution report – ₹1 Cr
- HQs of JMM – Ranchi, Jharkhand | Leader – Shibu Soren | Founder – Binod Bihari Mahato

123. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and CEEW's Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF) have launched the India Renewables Dashboard. The dashboard is a joint effort to provide detailed operational information on renewable energy (RE) projects in India. The dashboard is supported by the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Electricity Authority + CEEW-CEF = launched the India Renewables Dashboard
- HQs of CEA – New Delhi

124. On April 22, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched #FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge to accelerate adoption of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in Government. India is well positioned to become a vibrant hub for Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) innovations, due to the large number of 4G data subscribers in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY launched “#FOSS4GOV Innovation Challenge” to accelerate adoption of Free & Open Source Software (FOSS)
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)

125. On April 20, Activating 'Article 224A' of the Constitution that had been dormant for 58 years, the Supreme Court has allowed High Court Chief Justices to start appointing retired HC judges as ad hoc judges for 2 to 5 years if the HC faced pendency of a large number of cases. In the last 58 years, only 3 retired judges have been appointed as ad hoc judges to HCs for a period of one year each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SC allowed HC Chief Justices to start appointing retired HC judges as ad hoc judges for 2 to 5 years
- Only 3 retired judges have been appointed as ad hoc judges to HCs in last 58 years – under 'Article 224A' of the IC
- [Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana \(48th\)](#)

126. On April 22, As India contends with its second major wave of COVID cases and a double-mutated variant of the virus, it now faces a new threat - a triple-mutant variant. Scientists found two triple-mutant varieties in patient samples in four states: Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. Researchers in India have dubbed it the "Bengal Strain". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Bengal Strain" - a COVID triple-mutant is found in 4 states of India: Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal & Chhattisgarh

127. On April 23, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has signed its first Power Purchase Agreement for the sale of 100 Mw Solar Power to Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL). The tenure of the agreement period is for 25 years. CIL, the world's largest coal-producing company last month had won a 100 Mw solar power project in a reverse auction conducted by GUVNL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CIL – signed its 1sts Power Purchase Agreement for the sale of 100 Mw Solar Power to Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd
- [HQs of CIL – Kolkata, WB | Director – Anil Kumar Jha | CMD – Pramod Agrawal](#)

128. On April 23, The CII Indian Green Building Council has launched "IGBC Mission on Net Zero" to facilitate India achieve net zero carbon emission status by 2050. More than 250 leading organisations in building sector have committed to achieve Net Zero status for their new and existing buildings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CII Indian Green Building Council – launched "IGBC Mission on Net Zero" to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission by 2050
- [HQs of Indian Green Building Council – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Vasudevan Suresh](#)

129. On April 23, The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted emergency use approval for pharma major Zydus Cadila's antiviral drug "Virafin", to treat moderate COVID-19 disease in adults. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DCGI – granted emergency use approval for "Virafin" - antiviral drug – of Zydus Cadila
- [The Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\) – V G Somani](#)
- [HQs of Zydus Cadila – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Pankaj Patel](#)

130. On April 23, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has launched a new and fresh concept to rejuvenate the International flyers departing from Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). DIAL has recently introduced the first of its kind oxygen bar, named “Oxy Pure”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indira Gandhi Int. Airport (Delhi Airport) – became 1st to introduce the first of its kind oxygen bar called “Oxy Pure”

131. On April 24, The Government plans to bring around 9 million hectares of land under Mustard Cultivation and also aims to raise the production to around 17 million tonnes (mt) by 2025-26. A webinar on ‘Mission Mustard 2025’ was organised by Solvent Extractors’ Association (SEA) of India. The government is targeting Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala for non-traditional areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government plans to bring around 9 million hectares of land under ‘Mustard Cultivation’
- Government aims to achieve the production of around 17 million tonnes (mt) by 2025-26
- Solvent Extractors’ Association (SEA) of India – organised a webinar on ‘Mission Mustard 2025’

132. On April 24, Ola Electric has revealed its plans to set up the world’s largest electric two-wheeler charging network called ‘Hypercharger Network’. Ola along with its partners would set it up at an estimated cost of \$2 billion over a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ola Electric – to set up world's largest EV two-wheeler charging network - ‘Hypercharger Network’
- It would be set up at an estimated cost of \$2 billion over a period of 5 years
- HQs of Ola – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Bhavish Aggarwal

133. On April 26, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed insurers to invest in debt securities issued by Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). Instruments rated or downgraded below AA should form part of ‘other investments’. As per IRDAI, 75% of the insurers’ investments have to be in AAA-rated assets, while 25% can go to instruments rated AA or even A-. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – allowed insurers to invest in debt securities issued by InvITs & REITS (at least 75% in AAA rated assets)
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

134. On April 24, The time for payment of the amount payable under the “Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020”, without an additional amount, has been extended to June 30. The government has also extended the timeline for passing of any order for assessment or reassessment under the Income-tax Act, 1961 (hereinafter called ‘the Act’). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government extended deadline for making payment under ‘Vivad se Vishwas’ scheme – to June 30

135. The population of dolphins in 'Chilika lake' has doubled this year compared with last year. It is India's largest brackish water lake along the Odisha coast. Three species were recorded during the census, with 544 Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins sighted this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The population of Dolphins in 'Chilika lake' ([Odisha](#)) – doubled this year compared with last year
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

136. On April 26, To provide better educational opportunities for Ladakhi students, the Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army has initiated the project "Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fire & Fury Corps ([Indian Army](#)) – initiated "Ladakh Ignited Minds: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness" project
- The project is related to – Education (for Ladakhi students)
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur](#)

137. On April 26, The Madras High Court has called the Election Commission of India (ECI) as 'the most irresponsible institution' and also blamed it for the raging second wave of COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madras High Court – blamed the ECI for the raging second wave of COVID-19 (especially in Tamil Nadu & Puducherry)
- [Chief Justice of Madras High Court – Justice Sanjib Banerjee](#)

138. The World Health Organization (WHO) will provide 4,000 oxygen concentrators to India which is experiencing a surge in Covid-19 cases and related deaths. An 'Oxygen Concentrator' uses the air nearby to filter oxygen and is the best solution for oxygen supply at home. An oxygen concentrator can be used for individuals who may have low blood oxygen levels. An oxygen concentrator pulls oxygen from the surrounding air and helps in getting the oxygen a person may need. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The WHO will provide 4,000 oxygen concentrators to India amid surge in Covid-19 cases
- An 'Oxygen Concentrator' uses the air nearby to filter oxygen & is the best solution for Oxygen supply at home

139. On April 26, The 551 PSA Oxygen Generation Plants will be set up in government hospitals located in district headquarters across India with the PM-CARES fund. These plants will give a boost to the public health system and ensure that each district hospital has a captive oxygen generation facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 551 PSA Oxygen Generation Plants – to be set up in Government Hospitals across India – with 'PM-CARES fund'

140. On April 25, India has recorded 30% increase in Agricultural Export last year in comparison to 2019-20 despite Covid situation. Rs 1.3 lakh Cr of export business was recorded last year in comparison to Rs 1.1 lakh Cr rupees in previous financial year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India recorded 30% increase in Agricultural Export last year
- [HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur | Established in – 1986](#)

141. On April 26, The foundation stone of the “Integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot” was laid by Dr. K J Sreeram, Director, CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai on the occasion of 74th foundation day of CLRI on 23rd April 2021. The pilot is part of the Indo-German project ‘Pyrasol’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. K J Sreeram – laid the foundation stone of the “Integrated Solar Dryer & Pyrolysis pilot” – at Chennai, TN
- April 23 – 74th foundation day of CSIR-CLRI ([Chennai](#))

142. On April 27, The cost of vaccinating all Indians above the age of 18 years against COVID-19 will be just 0.36% of India's annual GDP (Gross Domestic Product), according to a study by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra). It pegged the overall cost at Rs 67,193 Cr. Union government will incur Rs 20,870 Cr and state governments together will incur Rs 46,323 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ind-Ra: Cost of vaccinating all Indians above 18 years against COVID-19 will be 0.36% of India's GDP (Rs 67,193 Cr)
- [HQs of Ind-Ra – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#)

143. On April 26, Google CEO Sundar Pichai and his Microsoft counterpart Satya Nadella have assured to help India as the country grapples with a ravaging coronavirus crisis. Google is providing Rs 135 Cr in funding to @GiveIndia, @UNICEF for medical supplies, orgs supporting high-risk communities, and grants to help spread critical information. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google is providing Rs 135 Cr funding to India for medical supplies to fight against COVID-19
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998](#)

144. On April 27, The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) was formally launched by the Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia to create a free, transparent trade & investment environment and reduce the dependence on China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan + Australia = launched Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) – to reduce dependence on China
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)



145. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a deal between India and the United Kingdom on information sharing and preventing Customs offences. The agreement will provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of India and the UK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the signing of a deal between India & UK on Information Sharing & preventing Customs Offences
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

146. On April 28, Arizona government in the US has signed an Anti-abortion Bill that bans the procedure if the woman is seeking it solely because a fetus has a genetic abnormality such as Down syndrome. Doctors who perform an abortion solely because the child has a survivable genetic issue can face felony charges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arizona (US) – signed an “Anti-abortion Bill” that bans the procedure if the woman is seeking it for genetic issues
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

147. The UK has become the first country to announce regulation of the use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways. According to the government, the use of ALKS would be restricted to motorways, at speeds under 60 km per hour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – became the 1st country to announce regulation of the use of self-driving vehicles at slow speeds on motorways
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

148. Apple has announced a first-of-its-kind carbon removal initiative called “Restore Fund” worth \$200 million. Apple targets to become carbon neutral across its entire value chain by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Apple – launched first-of-its-kind \$200 million carbon removal initiative called “Restore Fund”
- HQs of Apple – California, United States | CEO – Tim Cook

149. The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) has welcomed the US’ decision to join the Indian-Swedish climate initiative, Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) that help meet the Paris Agreement goals. Earlier, India and the US also announced a ‘US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership’ to create stronger bilateral cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – joined the India-Sweden climate initiative “LeadIT” (Leadership Group for Industry Transition)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

150. The World Health Organization (WHO) has validated Gambia for having eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem, making it the second country in WHO’s African Region to achieve this milestone. This is a great step towards the 2030 goals set by the recently launched 2021-2030 road map for neglected tropical disease. Trachoma is a neglected tropical eye disease. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – validated Gambia for having eliminated ‘Trachoma’ as a public health problem (2nd country in Africa)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- Gambia – Banjul – Gambian dalasi | President – Adama Barrow

151. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) has launched “Little Guru”, the Sanskrit learning app in Bangladesh. The Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote Sanskrit language. [{Read more}](#)

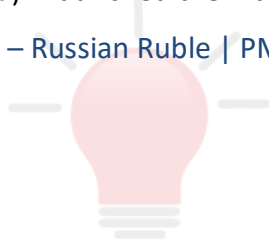
Key Points:

- IGCC – launched “Little Guru” the Sanskrit learning app – in Bangladesh
- Location of ICCR’s IGCC – Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

152. On April 27, Russian biotechnological company BioPalette has launched the mass production of “MultiSCREEN”, the world's first test system designed to simultaneously screen for the presence of diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BioPalette ([Russia](#)) – launched the mass production of “MultiSCREEN” the world's first test system
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



International Affairs

1. The 'Ever Given' container ship of Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd, was stuck at an angle of 30 degrees in Egypt's Suez Canal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Ever Given' container ship – stuck in Suez Canal (Egypt)
- [Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi](#)

2. Cognizant has launched the “Cognizant Returnship Programme”, a 12-week paid initiative for technology professionals looking to restart their careers after a break. Women professionals form around 38% of Cognizant's overall workforce in India and nearly 45% of the company's workforce in tier-2 cities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cognizant – launched a 12-week paid initiative “Cognizant Returnship Programme” for Technology Professionals
- [HQs of Cognizant – New Jersey, United States | CEO – Brian Humphries](#)

3. The US has proposed to impose retaliatory tariffs up to 25% on a wide variety of Indian products ranging from shrimps and basmati rice to gold and silver items. This is in response to digital services tax imposed by India on non-resident e-commerce operators. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The US – to impose retaliatory tariffs up to 25% on a wide variety of Indian products
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

4. India and US have agreed to revamp the “India-US Strategic Energy Cooperation (SEP)”. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan held an introductory meeting virtually with US Secretary of Energy H. E. Jennifer Granholm. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = agreed to revamp the “Strategic Energy Cooperation (SEP)”
- Dharmendra Pradhan – held an introductory meeting with US Secretary of Energy
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

5. PayPal Holdings Inc has started allowing U.S. consumers to use their cryptocurrency holdings to pay at millions of its online merchants globally. Customers who hold bitcoin, ether, bitcoin cash and litecoin in PayPal digital wallets will now be able to convert their holdings into fiat currencies at checkouts to make purchases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPal Holdings Inc – allowed its customers in the USA to trade with Cryptocurrencies (Bitcoin, Ether, Litecoin)
- [HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman](#)

6. The world's first animal vaccine called “Carnivac-Cov” against the novel coronavirus has been registered in Russia. The immunity lasts for 6 months after the vaccination. Russia already has 3 Covid-19 vaccines for humans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's first animal vaccine called “Carnivac-Cov” against novel coronavirus has been registered – in Russia
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

7. On April 7, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the legislation that may be able to keep him in power until 2036, when he will be 83 years old. Vladimir Putin is a former KGB officer has run the country for more than 20 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the legislation that allows him to stay as President until 2036
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

8. On April 7, As the ice-covered parts of the Arctic Ocean melt due to climate change, China has shown its interest to take part in building “Polar Silk Road”, raising prospects for the emergence of a new sea route. Connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Transpolar Sea Route (TSR) will cut across the centre of the Arctic Ocean, passing close to the North Pole. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China has shown its interest to take part in building “Polar Silk Road” – in Arctic Ocean
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

9. On April 8, LG Electronics, the South Korean giant, has exited the Smartphone Business. LG will complete the winding down of its smartphone business by July 31, this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LG Electronics – exited the Smartphone Business
- [HQs of LG Electronics – Seoul, South Korea](#) | [CEO – Kwon Bong-seok](#)

10. On April 6, The government has decided to reduce oil imports from Saudi Arabia by a whopping 36% in May. Iraq was India's biggest crude oil supplier at 8,67,500 bpd, followed by the US, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government decided to reduce oil imports from ‘Saudi Arabia’ by a whopping 36% in May
- India’s biggest crude oil suppliers: Iraq, US, Nigeria & Saudi Arabia

11. On April 8, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has handed over a fast patrol vessel called ‘PS Zoroaster’ to Seychelles and inaugurated a solar power plant, a court building and 10 community development projects in Seychelles at a virtual event. The new magistrates' court building in the capital city Victoria is India's first major civil infrastructure project in Seychelles built with grant assistance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi:
 - handed over a Fast Patrol Vessel called ‘PS Zoroaster’ to Seychelles
 - inaugurated a Solar Power Plant in Seychelles
 - inaugurated a new Magistrates' Court Building built with India’s assistance in Victoria, Seychelles
 - inaugurated 10 community development projects in Seychelles
- [Seychelles – Victoria – Seychellois Rupee](#) | [President – Wavel Ramkalawan](#)

12. On April 6, The United Arab Emirates' first Nuclear Power Plant has started commercial operations. The "Barakah nuclear Power Plant" in the Abu Dhabi is the first nuclear power station in the Arab world. It is built by Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Barakah Nuclear Power Plant" - 1st in the Arab world – started commercial operations – in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- It is built by – Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

13. On April 9, The trilateral trade between India, Israel and the UAE can propel to a high of \$110 billion by 2030 by tapping into their mutual strengths. UAE and India's bilateral trade is projected to grow from \$60 billion in 2020 to \$100 billion by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Israel + UAE = trilateral trade could reach \$110 billion by 2030
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

14. On April 8, Dr. Jitendra Singh has flagged off the 5th edition of "India Russia Friendship Car Rally 2021". The event organized by International Friendship Car Rally Association, IFCRA, will take place in Russia from 18th to 20th April. The event is sponsored by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – flagged off the 5th edition of "India Russia Friendship Car Rally 2021"
- The event took place in – Russia | Sponsored by – Ministry of DoNER

15. Archaeologists have discovered the largest Ancient City - 'Rise of Aten' or 'Lost Golden City' ever found in Egypt, dating to a golden age of the pharaohs 3,000 years ago. This is a large city that was lost. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Archaeologists discovered the 3,000 year old largest Ancient City - 'Rise of Aten' or 'Lost Golden City' – in Egypt
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

16. On April 10, India has established a bilateral 'Air Bubble Agreement' with Sri Lanka for operation of special international passenger flights, making it the 6th such arrangement in SAARC region and the 28th in total. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India established a bilateral 'Air Bubble Agreement' with Sri Lanka (28th country | 6th in SAARC region)
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



17. On April 9, Singapore has ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, becoming the first participating country to do so. The RCEP is the world's largest free trade agreement led by China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Singapore – ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement
- RCEP – the world's largest free trade agreement – led by China
- [Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob](#)

18. On April 10, China has imposed a record fine of 18.2 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) on Jack Ma's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd for monopoly probe. The Hangzhou-based company will be required to implement “comprehensive rectifications,” including strengthening internal controls, upholding fair competition, and protecting businesses on its platform and consumers' rights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China imposed a record fine of 18.2 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) – on Alibaba Group Holding Ltd
- [HQs of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd – Hangzhou, China | CEO – Daniel Zhang](#)

19. On April 12, Tropical cyclone Seroja has ripped across a 1,000km (621-mile) stretch of Western Australia, leaving a trail of damage. The Bureau of Meteorology stated that it was the first cyclone to hit some affected areas since 1956. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cyclone Seroja – has hit 'Western Australia'
- [Western Australia – Perth – Australian Dollar](#)

20. On April 13, China has opened a 5G signal base at the “Ganbala Radar Station” in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet. Ganbala radar station is the world's highest manually operated radar station at an elevation of 5,374 meters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – opened a 5G signal base at the “Ganbala Radar Station” - the world's highest radar station (at 5,374 meters)
- “Ganbala Radar Station” is located in – Tibet
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

21. On April 13, New Zealand has become the first country to introduce a law that will require banks, insurers and investment managers to report the impacts of climate change on their business. All banks with total assets of more than NZ\$1 billion (\$703 million) and insurers with more than NZ\$1 billion in total assets under management will have to make disclosures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – became the 1st country in the world to introduce Climate Change Law for financial firms
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)

22. On April 13, Bharti group-backed Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications company OneWeb has partnered with the Kazakhstan government to accelerate connectivity in the country. The company will facilitate the establishment of a Low Earth Orbit Centre of Excellence in Kazakhstan and enable OneWeb's service delivery across the whole of Central Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OneWeb + Kazakhstan = to establish a Low Earth Orbit Centre of Excellence in Kazakhstan
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

23. On April 13, Japan has decided to release more than 1 million tonnes of contaminated water from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear station into the sea. The first release of water will take place in about two years. The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., says its storage capacity will be full in the fall of 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – decided to release more than 1 million tonnes of contaminated water from 'Fukushima Nuclear Station'
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

24. On April 9, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have launched the construction of an International Center for Trade and Economic Cooperation named 'Central Asia' on the borders of the two countries. Kazakhstan is Uzbekistan's 3rd largest trade partner after China and Russia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uzbekistan + Kazakhstan = launched the construction of an International Center for Trade & Economic Cooperation
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

25. The melting of Antarctica's "Thwaites Glacier", also called the "Doomsday Glacier" has long been a cause of concern because of its high potential of speeding up the global sea level rise happening due to climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Thwaites Glacier" (also called "Doomsday Glacier") – located in Antarctica

26. On April 14, In Chile, more than 4,200 tonnes of salmon have fallen victim to killer algae. Chile is the world's second-largest producer of salmon. There are around 18 salmon farms in the south of Chile which produces around 26% of the world's salmon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deadly algae kill 4,200 tonnes of 'Salmon' in Chile
- Chile – Santiago – Peso | President – Sebastian Pinera



27. On April 22, Researchers from Purdue University in the U.S. have developed an 'Ultra-white' paint, which when painted onto buildings, can reflect 99% sunlight falling on them and lower the temperature indoors by 4.5 degrees Celsius than the surroundings. This is possible to achieve by adding Barium sulfate (BaSO_4) to acrylic paint. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers from Purdue University (US) – developed an 'Ultra-white' paint that reflects 99% sunlight
- This is possible to achieve by adding Barium sulfate (BaSO_4) to acrylic paint

28. On April 17, Turkey's central bank has banned the use of cryptocurrencies and crypto assets to purchase goods and services, citing irreparable possible damages and significant risks in such transactions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Turkey – banned the use of cryptocurrencies and crypto assets to purchase goods & services
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan

29. On April 10, Iran has launched advanced Uranium Enrichment centrifuges. It comes after U.S. offered 'very serious' ideas on resetting ties and was awaiting Tehran's reciprocation. President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the 3 cascades of 164 IR-6 centrifuges, 30 IR-5 and another 30 IR-6 devices at Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – launched advanced "Uranium Enrichment centrifuges" – at Natanz Uranium Enrichment Plant ([Iran](#))
- 3 cascades: 164 IR-6 + 30 IR-5 + 30 IR-6
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Hassan Rouhani

30. According to the World Meteorological Organisation, the Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) emissions from 'La Soufriere' volcano eruption in the Caribbean Sea reached India on April 16, 2021. Sulphur dioxide reacts with water to form sulphuric acid which can come down with rainfall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) emissions from 'La Soufriere' volcano eruption in the Caribbean Sea reached India
- 'La Soufriere' volcano – located in Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
- Saint Vincent & the Grenadines – Kingstown – Eastern Caribbean dollar
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

31. On April 17, The French National Assembly has approved the creation of an "ecocide" offence as part of a battery of measures aimed at protecting the environment and tackling climate change. Transgressors will be liable to up to 10 years in prison and a fine of 4.5 million euros (\$5.4 million). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France approved 'ecocide' offence to punish Environmental Damage
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

32. On April 20, India has been elected by acclamation to three bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). India was elected by acclamation for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2022. Those three bodies are given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India is elected by acclamation to 3 bodies of the UN ECOSOC for a 3-year term (beginning Jan 1, 2022)
- Those 3 bodies are:
 - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
 - Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
 - Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP)

33. On April 19, The Israeli Ministry of Energy has announced a National Plan which includes a main target of reducing 80% of Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2050. The plan also aims to shut down all coal-fired power plants by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel aims to reduce 80% Greenhouse Gas Emissions – by 2050
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

34. On April 20, British authorities are exploring the possibility of creating a new digital currency that Treasury chief Rishi Sunak touted as “Bitcoin”. Currently, only the Bahamas has such a currency, though China is trialing it in several cities. Sweden has indicated it could have its own digital currency by 2026, while the European Central Bank has indicated an Electronic Euro might be created within 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK is exploring the possibility of creating a new digital currency “Bitcoin”
- [Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer \(Finance Minister\) – Rishi Sunak](#)
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson](#)

35. On April 22, Australia has cancelled two Chinese Belt and Road infrastructure building initiative deals with Victoria state government on grounds of national interest. Victoria Education Department pacts signed with Syria in 1999 and Iran in 2004 were also cancelled. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – cancelled two Chinese Belt & Road infrastructure building initiative deals
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

36. On April 22, US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has asked Joe Biden to designate 4 nations - India, Russia, Syria & Vietnam as “Countries of Particular Concern (CPC)” for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USCIRF asked Joe Biden to designate 4 nations as “Countries of Particular Concern (CPC)”
- These 4 nations: India, Russia, Syria & Vietnam
- [HQs of USCIRF – Washington, D.C., US | Executive Director – Erin D. Singhsinsuk](#)

37. On April 22, Israel's government has chosen Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google for the 4-phase project known as "Nimbus" worth 4 billion shekels (\$1.2 billion or approx Rs 7,530 Cr) to provide cloud services for the country's public sector and military. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel – chose AWS & Google for the 4-phase project known as "Nimbus" worth 4 billion shekels (\$1.2 billion)
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

38. On April 22, India has built infrastructures for 3 Educational Institutions - Shree Rambha Higher Secondary School, Shree Laxmi Higher Secondary School and Shree Nava Adarsha Multiple Campus in Nepal's Palpa district and handed it over. It was built with Government of India's financial assistance of NRs 98.37 Million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India built infrastructures for 3 Educational Institutions in Palpa district, Nepal
- Government of India's financial assistance for this – NRs 98.37 Million
- [Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari](#)

39. On April 23, Japan's health ministry has approved the use of rheumatoid arthritis drug "Baricitinib" for COVID-19 patients, the third such approval after Remdesivir and Dexamethasone. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – approved the use of rheumatoid arthritis drug "Baricitinib" for COVID-19 patients
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga](#)

40. On April 23, The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to make Washington, D.C. (also known as the District of Columbia) the 51st state. By a vote of 216-208, the Democratic-controlled House approved the initiative with no Republican support. The new state would be named "Washington, Douglass Commonwealth". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U.S. House of Representatives – passed a bill to make Washington, D.C. (District of Columbia) the 51st state
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

41. On April 25, China's first Mars rover has been named "Zhurong" after a traditional fire God. The rover is aboard the Tianwen-1 probe and is due to land in May to look for evidence of life. The rover's title fits with the Chinese name for Mars - "Huo Xing" or fire star. China would become the third country after the former Soviet Union and the United States to put a robot rover on Mars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China's 1st Mars rover is named "Zhurong" after a traditional fire God (It will be landed on Mars in May)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

42. On April 24, Saudi Arabia is shipping 80 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen to India as the country is running low on supplies due to an unprecedented spike in coronavirus cases. The supply shipment is being undertaken in cooperation with the Adani group and Linde company. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Saudi Arabia is shipping 80 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen to India
- The supply shipment is being undertaken in cooperation with = Adani group + Linde plc
- [HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani](#)

43. On April 26, Saudi Arabia will join the US, Canada, Norway and Qatar in forming 'Net Zero Producers Forum' for oil and gas producers to discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. US President Joe Biden unveiled plans to cut emissions by 50%-52% from 2005 levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saudi Arabia – to join the US, Canada, Norway & Qatar in forming 'Net Zero Producers Forum'
- [Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman](#)

44. On April 20, A New Global Partnership called "Blue Nature Alliance" partners to protect 18 million square kilometers of ocean globally over 5 years. It is a collaboration led by Conservation International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation, and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation. It aims to achieve a global target of conserving at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Blue Nature Alliance" partners to protect 18 million sq. km of ocean globally over 5 years

45. On April 26, Project "DANTAK" is commemorating its 'Diamond Jubilee' in Bhutan as it has completed 60 years. Project DANTAK was established on April 24, 1961 as a result of the visionary leadership of His Majesty the Third King and then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Project "DANTAK" is commemorating its 'Diamond Jubilee' (completed 60 years) – in Bhutan
- It was established – on April 24, 1961
- [Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering](#)

46. On April 26, New Zealand has decided to develop a drone that is capable of finding and tracking 'Māui Dolphins' using artificial intelligence. There are just 63 Māui dolphins remaining off of the west coast of New Zealand. It is developed by non-profit organisation MĀUI63. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand decided to develop a drone that is capable of finding and tracking "Māui Dolphins"
- There are just 63 "Māui Dolphins" remaining off of the west coast of New Zealand
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)

47. On April 28, According to the ICMR, the current positivity criteria is based on the Cycle Threshold (CT), which is a measure of how soon after an RT-PCR test, the SARS-CoV-2 is detected in a sample. All patients with a CT value of equal to or less than 35 may be considered positive. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to the ICMR: All patients with a CT value of equal to or less than 35 may be considered positive
- [HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911](#)



48. On April 28, A genome study is providing good news about the prospects of saving this critically endangered species of the 'Sumatran Rhinoceros' from extinction. The study was published in the journal 'Nature Communications'. The Sumatran Rhinoceros is the smallest of the world's five rhinoceros species, at around 700 to 800kg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumatran Rhino – 'critically endangered' species & the smallest of the world's five rhinoceros species
- The study was published in the journal 'Nature Communications'

49. On April 29, China has launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station. The launch is the first of 11 missions needed to construct and supply the station. A 3-person crew is to live there onboard the station which has an expected life span of about 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

50. On April 28, The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, under the Ministry of Finance, has recently issued the notification that the fund accumulation at the credit of subscribers of General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds will carry an interest rate of 7.1% for the period April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. The interest rate on the Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident Superannuation and Gratuity Funds has been kept unchanged at 7.1%. The interest income earned on the GPF amount is exempted under 'Section 80C' of the Income Tax Act, 1961. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- General Provident Fund (GPF) & other similar funds will carry an interest rate of 7.1% – from April 1 to June 30
- Interest rate on Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident Superannuation & Gratuity Funds – 7.1%
- Interest income earned on the GPF amount is exempted under 'Section 80C' of the "Income Tax Act, 1961"

51. Uttar Pradesh government has directed officials to take action under the National Security Act (NSA) and Gangster Act against anti-social elements involved in black marketing of medicine, spreading rumours and trying to spoil the atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – asked officials to take action under the "National Security Act (NSA)" and "Gangster Act"
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

52. The SEBI has asked top 500 listed companies to work towards splitting the roles of Chairman and Managing Director before the April, 2022 deadline. The regulation will now be applicable to the top 500 listed entities by market capitalization, with effect from April 1, 2022. At the end of December 2020, only 53% of the top 500 listed entities had complied with this provision. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – asked top 500 listed companies to work towards splitting the roles of Chairman & MD – before April, 2022
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992](#)

53. Telangana has decided not to continue the project to explore uranium reserves in Amrabad Tiger Reserve. The State government had consistently fought against the exploration move to protect the interest of Chenchu tribals and wildlife conservation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – shelved the project of uranium mining in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (Telangana)
- Chenchu Tribe – Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka & Odisha
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

54. On April 29, The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched a “WhatsApp Helpline Number” for providing emergency medical assistance to pregnant women. The number is 9354954224. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW – launched a “WhatsApp Helpline Number” to provide emergency medical assistance to pregnant women
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma

55. On April 22, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is working to identify Traditional Organic Areas to transform them into Certified Organic Production Hubs. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has certified 14,491 Hectares of land located in UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as ‘Organic Area’ under the ‘Large Area Certification (LAC)’ scheme. LAC certification is provided under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). Sikkim is the World’s 1st fully organic state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoAFW – certified 14,491 Hectares of land (in A&N Islands) as ‘Organic Area’ under ‘LAC’ scheme
- LAC – Large Area Certification | LAC is provided under – Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- World’s 1st fully organic state – Sikkim



Banking & Economic Affairs

1. On April 1, The RBI has extended the timeline of new Auto Debit Rule until September 30 (for 6 months). It is for all stakeholders to move to the new norms for Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) on e-mandate for recurring payments of online transactions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – extended the timeline of new Auto Debit Rule all stakeholders – until September 30 (for 6 months)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

2. On April 1, The RBI has set the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit at Rs 1.2 lakh Cr for the central government for the first half of the financial year beginning April 1. The interest rate on WMA is equal to the repo rate and on overdraft, it is 2% above the repo rate. The current repo rate is 4%. Under the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) facility, the Centre and states can borrow money from RBI for a period of 90 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – set the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit at Rs 1.2 lakh Cr for the central government
- Interest rate on WMA – 4% | Interest rate on overdraft – 6% (2% above the repo rate)
- Under WMA facility: Centre and states can borrow money from RBI for a period of 90 days
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

3. On April 1, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have tied up with global e-commerce major Amazon and Visa to launch a New Umbrella Entity (NUE), which will be a rival to state-owned NPCI. ICICI Bank and Axis Bank will be co-leading the consortium with a 20 per cent stake each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank & Axis Bank – tied up with – Amazon & Visa to launch a New Umbrella Entity (NUE)
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

4. On April 1, The government has announced an infusion of Rs 14,500 Cr into 4 banks - Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank by issuing Non-interest Bearing Zero-Coupon Recapitalisation Bonds. Zero-Coupon Recapitalisation Bonds are Tradable bonds, through which weak Public Sector Banks (PSBs) can raise money. Government has also allocated Rs 20,000 Cr for FY-22 for capital infusion in PSBs to meet their regulatory requirements. The government has given nearly Rs 2.5 trillion for recapitalization of banks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government has announced an infusion of Rs 14,500 Cr into 4 banks – CBoI, IOB, BoI & UCO Bank
- The infusion will be done by issuing “Non-interest Bearing Zero-Coupon Recapitalisation Bonds”
- Government also allocated Rs 20,000 Cr for FY-22 for capital infusion in PSBs

5. On April 1, As per the data released by the RBI, India's current account has recorded a deficit of \$1.7 billion in the December quarter (Q3FY21) after two quarters of surplus. The RBI showed merchandise trade deficit rose to \$34.5 billion from \$ 14.8 billion in the preceding quarter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's current account – recorded a deficit of \$1.7 billion in Q3FY21
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

6. On April 1, CDC Group and Northern Arc have jointly structured a Pooled Bond Issuance (PBI) transaction worth Rs 320 Cr in India through Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs). The Rs 320 Cr fund will support 6 domestic microfinance institutions (MFIs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CDC Group + Northern Arc = jointly structured a Pooled Bond Issuance (PBI) transaction worth Rs 320 Cr in India
- Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) – are used in this investment
- HQs of CDC Group – UK | CEO – Nick O'Donohoe
- HQs of Northern Arc – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Ravi Vukkadala

7. On April 1, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has formed its wholly-owned subsidiary firm “NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)”. The new entity came into effect from April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – formed a wholly-owned subsidiary “NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

8. The Central government has decided to retain the inflation target of 4%, with a tolerance band of +/- 2% points for the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI for the coming 5 years (April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2026). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government – decided to retain the inflation target of 4% for 5 years (with a tolerance band of +/- 2% points)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

9. On April 1, ICICI Bank and digital payment wallet PhonePe have partnered for issuance of FASTag. FASTag is a brand name owned by Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + PhonePe = partnership for issuance of FASTag
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam

10. On April 1, The Centre's fiscal deficit in the first 11 months of FY21 has touched Rs 14.1 trillion (lakh Cr) which is about 76% of the 2020-21 Revised Estimates Fiscal Deficit of Rs 18.48 trillion (lakh Cr) and 36% higher than last year's corresponding level of Rs 10.4 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centre's fiscal deficit in the first 11 months of FY21 – touched Rs 14.1 trillion (lakh Cr)
- 2020-21 Revised Estimates Fiscal Deficit – Rs 18.48 trillion (lakh Cr)



11. As instances of cyber-security breaches at Indian tech startups over the last few months is on the rise, the Reserve Bank of India has tightened its supervision norms over payment companies storing customer data. From April 1, all licensed Payment System Operators (PSOs) will have to submit detailed 'compliance certificates' to the RBI twice a year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- All licensed PSOs will have to submit detailed 'compliance certificates' to the RBI twice a year – from April 1
- PSOs – Payment System Operators
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)

12. FDI equity inflows into India during April-January 2020-21 grew by 28% to \$54.18 billion, according to the Commerce and Industry Ministry data. Total FDI (which includes reinvested earnings) during the 10-month period in FY21 increased by 15% to \$72.12 billion. Singapore is at the top with 30.28% of the total FDI equity inflow followed by the US (24.28%) and the UAE (7.31%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FDI equity inflows into India during April-January 2020-21 increased – by 28% (to \$54.18 billion)
- FDI during the 10-month period in FY21 increased – by 15% (to \$72.12 billion)
- 1st – Singapore (30.28%) | 2nd – US (24.28%) | 3rd – UAE (7.31%)

13. On April 7, IDBI Bank has approved a Rupee Bond borrowing limit of Rs 8,000 Cr for the next financial year (FY22). Within this borrowing plan, the bank may issue additional tier I bonds and infrastructure bonds up to Rs 3,000 Cr and Rs 1,000 Cr respectively, by way of private placement in FY22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDBI Bank – approved a Rupee Bond borrowing limit of Rs 8,000 Cr for FY22
- [HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rakesh Sharma](#)

14. On April 6, The RBI has announced that the applicable average base rate to be charged by Non-Banking Financial Company - Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) to their borrowers for the quarter beginning April 1, 2021, will be 7.81%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The applicable average base rate to be charged by NBFC-MFIs – 7.81%
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)

15. On April 7, The RBI has extended the classification of NBFCs under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) for another 6 months, up to September 30, 2021. With a view to encouraging farm credit to individual farmers against pledge/ hypothecation of agricultural produce, the RBI has enhanced the loan limit under PSL from ₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh per borrower. The RBI has mandated all scheduled commercial banks and foreign banks to set aside 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC) for lending to these sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – extended the classification of NBFCs under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) for another 6 months (up-to Sep 30)
- RBI – enhanced the loan limit under PSL to ₹75 lakh per borrower (from ₹50 lakh)
- RBI – mandated all scheduled commercial banks and foreign banks to set aside 40% of their ANDC for lending
- Categories under PSL: Agriculture, Micro and Small Enterprises, Education, Housing, Export Credit & others
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)



16. On April 7, The Reserve Bank of India has doubled the current deposit limit for Payment Bank Savings Accounts to ₹2 lakh from ₹1 lakh to boost payments banks. Airtel Payments Bank was the 1st payment bank to implement the policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI doubled the current deposit limit for Payment Bank Savings Accounts to ₹2 lakh
- Airtel Payments Bank – 1st payment bank to implement this policy
- India's 1st Payment Bank to get license from RBI – Airtel Payments Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

17. On April 7, Jana Small Finance Bank has partnered with Axis Securities, a subsidiary of Axis Bank, to provide customers with a 3-in-1 account that combines banking and investing. The 3-in-1 account integrates Savings Bank Account maintained by Jana Small Finance Bank and Demat and Trading Accounts maintained by Axis Securities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jana SFB + Axis Securities = to provide customers with a 3-in-1 account (Savings, Demat & Trading a/c)
- HQs JSFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

18. On April 8, The RBI has announced that unutilised External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) proceeds drawn down before March 1, 2020, can be parked in term deposits with banks in India prospectively up to March 1, 2022, in a relief to borrowers who could not utilise the proceeds due to lockdown. Meanwhile, the RBI announced that the “Financial Inclusion Index” (FI Index) will be published annually in July for the financial year ending previous March. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Unutilised ECB can be parked in Term Deposits with banks prospectively up to March 1, 2022
- ECB – External Commercial Borrowing
- RBI – to publish “Financial Inclusion Index” (FI Index) – in July every year
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

19. On April 5, Lending fintech platform U GRO Capital has announced its partnership with SBM Bank India to launch “GRO Smart Business” credit card specially designed for MSMEs and powered by RuPay, along with EnKash. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U GRO Capital + SBM Bank India = partnership to launch “GRO Smart Business” credit card for MSMEs
- The credit card is powered by – RuPay & EnKash
- HQs of U GRO Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & Executive Director – Abhijit Ghosh
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI



20. On April 7, The RBI has decided to extend fresh support of ₹50,000 Cr to the All India Financial Institutions for new lending in FY22. Accordingly, NABARD will be provided a special liquidity facility (SLF) of ₹25,000 Cr for 1 year to support agriculture and allied activities, the rural non-farm sector and NBFC-MFIs. SLF of ₹10,000 Cr will be extended to the National Housing Bank for 1 year to support the housing sector. SIDBI will be provided ₹15,000 Cr under this facility for up to 1 year for funding of MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI decided to extend fresh support of ₹50,000 Cr to the All India Financial Institutions
- ₹25,000 Cr – to NABARD | ₹10,000 Cr – to NHB | ₹15,000 Cr – to SIDBI
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)

21. On April 7, The RBI has kept the Repo Rate unchanged at 4% for the 5th consecutive monetary policy committee. The Reverse Repo Rate remained unchanged at 3.35%, and the Marginal Standing Facility and Bank Rate kept unchanged at 4.25%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI kept the RR/RRR/MSF unchanged for the 5th consecutive MPC
- Repo Rate – 4% | Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% | MSF/Bank Rate – 4.25% | CRR – 3.50% | SLR – 18%
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)

22. The RBI has conducted Open Market Purchase of government securities of ₹1 lakh Cr under the 'G-sec Acquisition Programme' (G-SAP 1.0) in Q1 2021-22 with a view to enabling a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve. The first purchase of government securities for an aggregate amount of ₹25,000 Cr under G-SAP 1.0 was conducted on April 15, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – conducted Open Market Purchase of government securities of ₹1 lakh Cr under 'G-SAP 1.0'
- G-SAP – G-sec Acquisition Programme | The first purchase under G-SAP 1.0 – ₹25,000 Cr
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)

23. On April 9, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) policy panel has authorised a \$650 billion expansion of its International Reserve Asset also known as Special Drawing Rights (SDR). The move will provide badly needed reserves for poor countries struggling with deep recessions caused by the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMF Policy Panel – authorised a \$650 billion expansion of its International Reserve Asset also known as SDR
- SDR – Special Drawing Rights
- [HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190](#)

24. On April 7, The RBI has updated Quarterly Projection Model (QPM). In terms of its structure, the augmented QPM model incorporates: a) Fiscal-monetary dynamics, b) Disaggregated fuel pricing (oil price, exchange rate and fuel taxes) and c) Balance of payments and exchange rate interactions. The RBI expects headline retail inflation to be around 5% for most part of FY22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – updated Quarterly Projection Model (QPM)
- QPM model incorporates:
 - a) Fiscal-monetary dynamics



b) Disaggregated fuel pricing (oil price, exchange rate and fuel taxes)

c) Balance of payments and exchange rate interactions

- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

25. On April 9, India's debt to GDP ratio has increased from 74% to 90% during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the International Monetary Fund. In 2020, fiscal policy also contributed to mitigate falling economic activity and employment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to IMF: India's debt to GDP ratio increased to 90% (from 74%)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

26. On April 9, Airtel Payments Bank has launched its new savings account "Rewards123" that offers benefits and value to customers when they transact digitally using the bank account. Customers can get 'Rewards123' at an annual fee of Rs 299. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel Payments Bank – launched its new savings account "Rewards123" (Annual Fee - Rs 299)
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas | Founded in – 2017

27. The RBI has withdrawn all restrictions imposed on Youth Development Co-operative Bank Ltd, Kolhapur since January 2019. The validity of the 'all-inclusive directions' was extended from time to time, the last being up to April 5, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – withdrew all restrictions imposed on Youth Development Co-operative Bank Ltd in 2019 (Kolhapur, MH)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

28. On April 6, Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL) has recorded the highest monthly transaction volume of more than ₹1,000 Cr in March in terms of discounting invoices of MSMEs. The Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform stated that the growth in transaction volumes from ₹69 Cr in April 2020 to ₹1,105 Cr in March 2021 mimics the revival and resumption of economic activity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL) – recorded the highest monthly transaction volume of ₹1,000 Cr in March
- TReDS – Trade Receivables Discounting System
- HQs of RXIL – Mumbai, MH

29. On April 10, SwitchON Foundation along with Punjab National Bank (PNB) has set up the first 'Loss Default Guarantee Fund' to offer finance to the marginal farmers for buying solar pumps. The basic aim of the fund is to help unbanked small marginal farmers without any collateral. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SwitchON Foundation + PNB = set up the first 'Loss Default Guarantee Fund' – to help marginal farmers
- HQs of SwitchON Foundation – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD – Vinay Jaju
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

30. On April 5, Mobisafar Services Pvt Ltd, a Ludhiana-based Fintech start-up, has launched 'Mobisafar Virtual RuPay Prepaid card' in partnership with Yes Bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The Virtual RuPay Card was inaugurated by former Cricketer Kapil Dev. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mobisafar Services ([Ludhiana](#)) + Yes Bank + NPCI = launched 'Mobisafar Virtual RuPay Prepaid card'
- The Virtual RuPay Card was inaugurated by – Kapil Dev
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

31. On April 13, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a Digital Initiative “PNB@Ease” under which every transaction undertaken by a bank branch will be initiated and authorised by customers themselves. PNB@Ease outlets will be loaded with 5 Kiosks i.e. ATM, Bunch Note Acceptor, Account Opening Kiosk, Card Issuance Kiosk and internet-enabled Kiosk. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – launched a Digital Initiative “PNB@Ease”
- PNB@Ease outlets will be loaded with 5 Kiosks:
 - ATM, Bunch Note Acceptor, Account Opening Kiosk, Card Issuance Kiosk & internet-enabled Kiosk
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

32. On April 13, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 25 Cr on Yes bank for allegedly perpetrating fraud on its customers by influencing them to alter their investment positions from fixed deposits (FD) to risky AT-1 (additional tier-1) bonds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 25 Cr on Yes bank – in ‘AT-1 bonds’ case
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

33. On April 14, Finance Ministry has amended the “Post Office Savings Account Scheme, 2019”. Account Maintenance Fee which is levied for non-maintenance of minimum balance in the post office savings account has been reduced to Rs 50 from Rs 100. Currently, an account holder is required to maintain a minimum balance of Rs 500. Deposit required for opening of account is Nil. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry – amended the “Post Office Savings Account Scheme, 2019”
- Account Maintenance Fee for non-maintenance of minimum balance – reduced to Rs 50 (from Rs 100)

34. On April 9, Yes Bank has executed its first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked trade borrowing transaction with American Lender ‘Wells Fargo Bank’. SOFR is an identified replacement for USD LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate), which is likely to be phased out at the end of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank – executed its 1st “SOFR” linked trade borrowing transaction – with Wells Fargo Bank ([US](#))
- SOFR – Secured Overnight Financing Rate
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”



35. On April 13, India's Retail inflation rose to a 4-month high of 5.52% in March on account of rising food prices as well as costlier fuel. While the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation was 5.52% in March and the Consumer Food Price Inflation (CFPI) soared to 4.94%. Core inflation was also increased to a 29-month high of 5.96% in March. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's Retail inflation – increased to a 4-month high of 5.52% in March
- CPI-based retail inflation – 5.52% | CFPI – 4.94% | Core inflation – 5.96%

36. On April 13, National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched a ₹10,000 Cr “Special Refinance Facility-2021” (SRF-2021) to provide short term refinance support to Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) and other eligible Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHB – launched a ₹10,000 Cr “Special Refinance Facility-2021” (SRF-2021) Scheme
- HQs of NHB – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – R. V. Verma

37. On April 12, Bank credit grew 5.56% to Rs 109.51 lakh Cr, while deposits rose 11.4% to Rs 151.13 lakh Cr in the financial year ended March 31, 2021, as per the data released by the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank Credit – rose 5.56% to Rs 109.51 lakh Cr – in FY ended on March 31, 2021
- Bank Deposits – rose 11.4% to Rs 151.13 lakh Cr – in FY ended on March 31, 2021
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

38. On April 9, G20 finance ministers have finally given their nod to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to issue fresh Special Drawing Rights (SDR) worth \$650 billion to member countries. Ministers and governors also agreed on a final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) by 6 months through end-December 2021. SDR is an international reserve asset created by the IMF. One SDR is currently valued at \$1.425. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G20 finance ministers – gave their nod to the IMF to issue fresh Special Drawing Rights (SDR) worth \$650 billion
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

39. On April 11, According to a study revealed by the IIT Bombay, State Bank of India (SBI) has been imposing Excessive Charges on certain services provided to poor persons having Zero-Balance or Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA). SBI has collected Rs 300 Cr from Zero Balance Accounts in 5 years (2015-20) from among nearly 12 Cr Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) holders of SBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI is imposing Excessive Charges on certain services provided to poor persons having Zero-Balance or BSBDA
- According to IIT Bombay: SBI collected Rs 300 Cr from Zero Balance Accounts in 5 years (2015-20)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



40. On April 12, Axis Bank customers can now send money abroad in over 100 currencies through 'Send Money Abroad' feature in their Axis Mobile App. They can send up to \$25,000 per transaction for various purposes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank – allowed its customers to send money abroad in over 100 currencies via 'Send Money Abroad' feature
- Amount limit per transaction – \$25,000
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

41. On April 13, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank announced its collaboration with fintech NIRA as a part of its strategy of leveraging its API Banking platform for fintech partnerships. Through this partnership, salaried customers can apply for a Personal Loan by using the NIRA app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ujjivan SFB + NIRA = fintech partnerships to provide personal loans
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Nitin Chugh
- HQs of NIRA – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Remya Sumesh

42. On April 15, The World Bank Group entity International Finance Corporation (IFC) is partnering with JC Flowers and also announced to invest \$100 million in “JC Flowers India Opportunities Fund” to help domestic lenders resolve their distressed assets and free up capital for new lending. It is a part of IFC's Distressed Asset Recovery Program (DARP) work in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFC will invest \$100 million in “JC Flowers India Opportunities Fund” to help domestic lenders
- IFC – an entity of the World Bank Group
- DARP – Distressed Asset Recovery Program
- HQs of IFC – Washington, D.C., USA | CEO – Makhtar Diop | Head of IFC India – Jun Zhang

43. The theft of around Rs 4.04 Cr by a private security guard from the 'Currency Chest' of Axis Bank in Chandigarh's Sector 34 has put the affairs of currency chests in the spotlight. 'Currency Chest' is a place where the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stocks the money meant for banks and ATMs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A theft of around Rs 4.04 Cr from the 'Currency Chest' of Axis Bank – took place in Chandigarh
- Currency Chest – a place where the RBI stocks the money meant for banks & ATMs
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

44. On April 15, RBL Bank and Mastercard have partnered to launch a mobile based consumer-friendly payment solution, “Pay by Bank” app, a first-of-its-kind payment functionality in India. To provide enhanced security, 'Pay by Bank App' ensures that Bank customer's payment credentials are never exposed to the merchant, making the transaction completely secure. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBL Bank + Mastercard = launched “Pay by Bank” app
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

45. On April 15, US-based Citibank has announced to close its consumer banking operations in India and 12 other countries. Citi’s businesses in India include retail banking, wealth management, credit cards and mortgages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Citibank (US) – announced to close its consumer banking operations in India & 12 other countries
- HQs of Citibank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ashu Khullar

46. On April 16, The RBI has set up the Regulations Review Authority 2.0. Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the head of the Regulations Review Authority 2.0. The authority would have validity for a period of 1 year from May 1, 2021. The RBI had set up a similar authority for 1 year from April 1, in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – set up the “Regulations Review Authority 2.0” for 1 year – headed by M. Rajeshwar Rao
- RBI had set up a similar authority – in 1999
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

47. In a major move in the online payments segments, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow Payment System Operators to take direct membership of Centralised Payment Systems (CPS), such as RTGS and NEFT. This facility is expected to minimise settlement risk in the financial system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to allow Payment System Operators to take direct membership of CPS – such as RTGS & NEFT
- CPS – Centralised Payment Systems | RTGS – Real-Time Gross Settlement | NEFT – National Electronic Funds Transfer
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

48. On April 19, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has partnered with Habitat for Humanity International to help microfinance institutions (MFIs) deliver housing loans to 20,000 low-income families in rural and peri-urban areas of India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + Habitat for Humanity International = partnership to help MFIs deliver housing loans to low-income families
- Loans to 20,000 low-income families in – India, Bangladesh, Indonesia & Philippines
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- HQs of Habitat for Humanity – Georgia, US | CEO – Jonathan Reckford



49. On April 11, The Finance Bill, 2021 proposed to replace two quasi-judicial bodies such as the 'Income-Tax Settlement Commission' (ITSC) and the 'Authority for Advance Rulings' (AAR) with administrative bodies, comprising of chief commissioners of income-tax. The finance ministry abruptly discontinued the ITSC from February 1, 2021, and replaced it with a new 'Dispute Resolution System' with Assessing Taxable income up to Rs 50 lakh and disputed income of up to Rs 10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Income-Tax Settlement Commission' (ITSC) – replaced with 'Dispute Resolution System'
- Assessing Taxable income up to – Rs 50 lakh | Disputed income of up to – Rs 10 lakh

50. On April 20, The RBI has been decided not to activate Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at present, based on the review and empirical testing of CCyB indicators. The RBI had in February 2005 put in place CCyB guidelines with the overall objective of strengthening the banking sector. Currently, RBI keeps the CCyB at 0%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – decided not to activate Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at present
- The RBI had in February 2005 put in place CCyB guidelines | Current CCyB rate – 0%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

51. On April 20, The RBI has formed a 6-member panel headed by Sudarshan Sen to carry out comprehensive review of the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem. The Committee will submit its report within 3 months from the date of its first meeting. ARCs have to maintain a capital adequacy ratio of 15% of its risk-weighted assets and their net owned funds should be Rs 100 Cr or more. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI has formed a 6-member panel to carry out comprehensive review of the working of ARCs
- The panel is headed by – Sudarshan Sen | ARCs – Asset Reconstruction Companies
- ARCs have to maintain a capital adequacy ratio of 15% of its Risk-Weighted Assets
- ARCs' net owned funds should be more or equal to – Rs 100 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

52. On April 20, Google Pay is launching "Fi" - a Neobank for salaried millennials in partnership with Federal Bank. Neobanks are virtual banks that work online and do not have physical branches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google Pay + Federal Bank = launching "Fi" - a Neobank for salaried millennials
- HQs Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

53. On April 23, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has roped in Ernst & Young as its Digital Consultant to transform its banking services, with an aim to boost digital transactions share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOB – roped in Ernst & Young as its Digital Consultant
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta | Tagline – "Good people to grow with"
- HQs of EY – London, UK | CEO – Carmine Di Sibio



54. On April 23, Aceware FinTech Services has launched the Kerala's first Neobank, "Ace Money Neobank", in partnership with YES Bank and ICICI Bank. In the first phase, start-ups, traders and business entities can open current accounts with the neobank, according to the company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aceware FinTech Services + YES Bank + ICICI Bank = launched the Kerala's first Neobank, "Ace Money Neobank"
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"
- HQs of Aceware – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – Jimmin James Kurichiyil

55. On April 22, South Africa's second-largest lender FirstRand Bank has decided to withdraw its banking services from India after 12 years. FirstRand which has \$118 billion in assets, became the second global bank to exit India just within a week of Citigroup's decision. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FirstRand Bank – to withdraw its banking services from India
- HQs of FirstRand – Johannesburg, South Africa | CEO – Alan Pullinger

56. On April 23, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with HDFC Ltd to offer housing loans to homebuyers at competitive rates. Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH) will originate retail home loans according to a jointly drawn up credit policy and retain 20% of the loan in its books. The rest, 80%, will be on HDFC's books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indiabulls Housing Finance + HDFC Ltd = a strategic co-lending partnership to offer housing loans
- HQs of IHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Subhash Sheoratan Mundra | Vice-Chairman & MD – Gagan Banga

57. On April 23, The RBI has cancelled the licence of Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd due to adequate capital. Over 98% of the depositors will receive the full amounts of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of "Bhagyodaya Friends Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd" (Warud, Maharashtra)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

58. On April 23, Indian Bank has signed an agreement with The Chennai Angles for financing start-ups under its loan programme, "IND Spring Board". Under this product, the bank will support start-ups by extending credit facilities of up to ₹50 Cr for working capital requirements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + Chennai Angles – for loan programme "IND Spring Board"
- The bank will extend credit facilities of up to ₹50 Cr for working capital requirements
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chunduru

59. On April 22, Mastercard and BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL) have launched to offer an easy payment solution for cardholders with the launch of “ConQR” - a Mastercard QR on Card solution. ConQR will be first offered to small businesses who currently use BoB’s acceptance solutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + BFSL = to launch “ConQR” - a Mastercard QR on Card solution – to offer an easy payment solution
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach
- HQs of BFSL – Mumbai, MH | CFO – Pooja Karnani

60. On April 22, HSBC India has collaborated with Google Pay (GPay) and VISA to enable secured tokenisation on its credit cards. This new feature will enable HSBC Credit Card customers to link their card to GPay and use it for transaction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HSBC India + GPay + VISA = collaboration to enable secured tokenisation on its credit cards
- HQs of HSBC India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Surendra Rosha
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

61. On April 22, The New Development Bank (NDB) has issued its 5-year \$1.5 billion benchmark bond. This transaction is the 3rd USD benchmark bond offering of the Bank in the international markets. The bond was priced with no new issue premium at MS +25bps. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB – issued its 5-year \$1.5 billion benchmark bond
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)

62. On April 18, In-line with the RBI’s guidelines, Airtel Payments Bank has become the first payments bank in India to enable ₹2 lakh day-end balance account limit from ₹1 earlier. The Bank deposits are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel Payments Bank – became the 1st payments bank in India to enable ₹2 lakh day-end balance account limit
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas | Founded in – 2017

63. ICICI Bank and SBI Cards have seen robust growth in Credit Card issuances between December 2020 and February 2021, coinciding with the temporary halt on HDFC Bank sourcing new cards. HDFC Bank has continued to maintain its market leadership in the credit card segment. The India Digital Payments Report 2020 by Worldline had revealed that 15 banks account for 95% of credit cards issued in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank & SBI Cards – noticed a strong growth in new Credit card issuance from Dec 2020 to Feb 2021
- HDFC Bank – India’s leading lender of Credit Cards (as of Feb 2021)
- 15 banks account for 95% of Credit Cards issued in India
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”



64. On April 23, The RBI has restricted American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Ltd from on-boarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1 for violating data storage norms. These are Payment System Operators authorised to operate card networks in India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI restricted American Express & Diners Club – from on-boarding new customers from May 1
- PSOs are authorised to operate card networks in India – under Payment & Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)
- HQs of American Express – New York, USA | CEO – Stephen Squeri
- HQs of Diners Club – Riverwoods, Illinois, US | President & CEO – Eduardo Tobon

65. On April 24, The RBI has extended the interim Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit of Rs 51,560 Cr for all states and Union Territories up to September 30, 2021. Indian States & UTs can avail Special Drawing Facility (SDF), WMA and Overdraft at an interest rate equal to the RBI's repo rate which is 4%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the interim WMA limit of Rs 51,560 Cr for all states & UTs - up to Sep 30, 2021
- Indian States & UTs can avail SDF, WMA & Overdraft at an interest rate of 4%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

66. On April 22, Axis Direct - the flagship brand of Axis Securities, a fully-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank, has launched a revolutionary mobile app - "Axis Direct RING" to make investment in Stock Markets simple, fast, and rewarding. Axis Direct RING scans the market meticulously to help investors find investment opportunities every 60 seconds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Direct – launched a revolutionary mobile app - "Axis Direct RING" to make investment in Stock Markets
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"
- MD & CEO of Axis Direct – B. Gopkumar

67. On April 13, In order to encourage people to get Covid-19 jabs, state-run Central Bank of India has launched a special deposit scheme offering an additional interest rate of 25 basis points above the applicable card rate for those who get vaccinated. The new product - "Immune India Deposit Scheme" has a maturity of 1,111 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Bank of India – launched "Immune India Deposit Scheme"
- Additional Interest Rate – 25 basis points | Maturity period – 1,111 days
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Matam Venkata Rao

68. On April 21, The RBI has relaxed the dividend payout norms of commercial banks and allowed them to pay up to 50% of what they paid before Covid from the profits for the fiscal ended March 31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI allowed commercial banks to pay up to 50% of pre-Covid dividends
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

69. On April 26, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) can now start operations in Gujarat's GIFT city. This includes both local and global NBFCs. They are allowed by the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) to offer a whole range of services - loans, investment banking, exotic derivative trades, third-party product sale, etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA – allowed 'NBFCs' to start operations in Gujarat's GIFT city
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

70. On April 24, The RBI in its circular "Corporate Governance in Banks - Appointment of Directors and Constitution of Committees of the Board" has asked private banks that the Chair of the board should be an Independent Director. The post of the MD & CEO cannot be held by the same person for more than 15 years. RBI has also fixed a maximum age of 70 for MD & CEO and 75 for non-executive directors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI's "Corporate Governance in Banks - Appointment of Directors & Constitution of Committees of the Board"
- RBI fixed 15 years as the tenure for the MD & CEO or Whole-Time Directors (WTDs) to hold their post in bank
- RBI also fixed a maximum age of 70 for MD & CEO & 75 for Non-Executive Directors

71. On April 24, SBI Mutual Fund has launched "SBI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund", an open-ended index scheme which would replicate the performance of the Nifty Next 50 Index. The NFO will open on April 28 and close for subscriptions on May 11. 'NIFTY Next 50' has completed 25 years on April 22, 2021. It is the flagship index of the National Stock Exchange's (NSE) launched in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Mutual Fund – launched "SBI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund" an open-ended index scheme
- 'NIFTY Next 50' – a flagship index of NSE (completed 25 years on April 22)
- HQs of SBI Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vinay M. Tonse

72. On April 24, Paytm has launched a new & India's 1st video-based Wealth Community wherein users can interact with subject-matter experts on topics such as stocks, IPO, ETFs, mutual funds, among others. The Paytm Wealth community is initially being offered in beta mode on the Paytm Money platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm – launched a new & India's 1st video-based Wealth Community
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar | Founded in – 2009

73. Shivalik Small Finance Bank Ltd has commenced operations as a Small Finance Bank with effect from April 26. The RBI had issued a licence to the bank under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on the business of small finance bank in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank – commenced operations as a Small Finance Bank with effect from April 26
- RBI had issued a licence to the bank – under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- HQs of SSFB – Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Suveer Kumar Gupta



74. On April 28, Indian Bank has signed an MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to receive seamless telecom services for the bank at a competitive rate. The bank is already using services of BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd for its Wide Area Network across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + BSNL = to receive seamless telecom services for the bank at a competitive rate
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chundurur
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar

75. On April 28, ICICI Bank has launched digital platform 'Merchant Stack' to target over 2 Cr retail merchants in the country. The platform enables merchants to meet their banking requirements amid the Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched digital platform 'Merchant Stack' to target over 2 Cr retail merchants in India
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

76. On April 28, The New India Assurance Co Ltd (NIACL) has been reclassified as a “Public shareholder” of Axis Bank from being a “promoter” earlier. NIACL held 0.67% of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of the bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIACL – reclassified as a “Public shareholder” of Axis Bank from being a “promoter” earlier
- HQs of NIACL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Atul Sahai
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

77. On April 27, Decentro has partnered with ICICI Bank to offer customized business banking APIs to fintechs, startups, and corporates and e-commerce companies. Decentro is a full-stack API banking platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Decentro + ICICI Bank = partnership to offer customized business banking APIs
- HQs of Decentro – Bangalore, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Rohit Taneja
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

78. On April 23, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as a member. NGFS is launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – joined the Central Banks & Supervisors NGFS as a member
- NGFS – Network for Greening the Financial System (launched in – 2017)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



Defence Affairs

1. The 11th edition of Indo-US joint Special Forces Exercise “Vajra Prahar 2021” was conducted at Special Forces training school located at Bakloh, in Himachal Pradesh. India and the US carried out a 2-day naval exercise in the eastern Indian Ocean Region on March 28 and 29. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 11th edition of Indo-US joint Special Forces Exercise “Vajra Prahar 2021” – conducted at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

2. Two French Naval Ships - Tonnerre (Amphibious Assault Ship) and Surcouf (Frigate Class Ship) have arrived at Cochin Port Trust on a goodwill visit to Kochi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Tonnerre’ & ‘Surcouf’ (French Naval Ships) – arrived at Cochin Port Trust on a goodwill visit to Kochi
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

3. On April 1, The 4th batch of 3 IAF Rafales has landed in Indian after a direct ferry from Istres Air Base France. India had ordered 36 fighter jets from French aerospace company Dassault Aviation for Rs. 59,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India received – 4th batch of 3 IAF Rafales from France
- India had ordered 36 fighter jets – from Dassault Aviation ([France](#))
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

4. A 30 member Indian Army delegation has arrived in Dhaka to participate in a multinational military exercise named “Shantir Ogroshena 2021” organised by Bangladesh from April 4 to 12 to mark the birth centenary of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of the liberation of Bangladesh. Apart from India, Bhutan & Sri Lanka have also participated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Bhutan + Sri Lanka = participated in the “Shantir Ogroshena 2021” organised by Bangladesh
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

5. On April 7, INS Sarvekshak, a hydrographic survey ship, is deployed to Mauritius for undertaking joint hydrographic surveys along with their Mauritian counterparts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Sarvekshak – sent to Mauritius to undertake Joint Hydrographic Surveys
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth



6. On April 6, Under the Development cum Production Partner (DCPP) programme, the DRDO has allowed the private sector to co-develop & produce Missile Systems such as vertical launched surface to Air Missile Systems Programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO allowed the Private Sector to co-develop & produce Missile Systems – under DCPP programme
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

7. On April 12, “Shantir Ogrosena”, a 10-day multinational military exercise in which troops of 4 countries including India participated from April 4 to 12 at Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS), Bangladesh. The armed forces of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka participated in the multilateral UN-mandated counterterrorism exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Shantir Ogrosena” – a 10-day Multinational Military Exercise – conducted in Bangladesh
- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka participated in the multilateral UN-mandated Counterterrorism Exercise
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

8. On April 16, Russia is going to deliver the first regimental set of “S-400” Triumf ‘SA-21 Growler’ air defence systems. Both countries have inked a \$5.43 billion contract. This contract is for the S-400 Triumf ‘SA-21Growler’, which is long-range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – to deliver the first regimental set of “S-400” Triumf ‘SA-21 Growler’ air defence systems
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

9. Special forces of India and Kyrgyzstan have begun a two-week military exercise in Bishkek with a focus on counter-terror drills. The 8th edition of Special Forces exercise, “Khanjar” was initiated in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Kyrgyzstan = began 8th edition of Special Forces exercise “Khanjar”
- [Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som | President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov](#)

10. On April 20, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of the indigenously built ‘ALH Mk III’ aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at INS Hansa, Goa on 19 Apr 21. It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The Indian Navy had ordered 16 Mk-III from HAL to supplement its ageing and depleting fleet of Alouettes (Chetaks). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “INAS 323” - 1st unit of indigenously built ‘ALH Mk III’ aircraft – commissioned into Indian Navy at INS Hansa, Goa
- The ALHs are Indigenously designed & developed by – HAL
- [HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt](#)

11. On April 19, Indian Navy warships will join the French flagship Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier along with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy for the 3-day “Varuna” trilateral exercise to jointly test combat skills and war game in the Persian Gulf area starting April 25. This is the first time that the UAE is participating in the Varuna maritime exercise. India and France have been holding the exercise since 1993. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3-day “Varuna” Trilateral Exercise – held in the Persian Gulf between = India + France + UAE
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

12. On April 22, From April 19 to 23, The Indian Air Force (IAF) chief, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria has made an official visit of 5 days to France aimed at bolstering the level of interaction between the two air forces. He flagged off 4 Rafale fighter jets for India from a military air base in France. This is the 5th ferry of Rafale jets from France to India and their arrival will take the total number of Rafale jets in the IAF inventory to 18. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RKS Bhadauria – made an official visit of 5 days to France
- RKS Bhadauria – flagged off 4 Rafale fighter jets for India from a military air base in France
- This was the 5th ferry of Rafale jets | Now, total number of Rafale jets in the IAF inventory – 18
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

13. On April 23, Indian Navy has sent its Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) from Visakhapatnam to assist Indonesian Navy in trying to find its KRI Nanggala submarine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – sent its Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) to help Indonesia find its ‘KRI Nanggala’ submarine
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

14. The 19th edition of the Indian and French Navy bilateral exercise “VARUNA-2021” was conducted from 25-27 April 2021 in the Arabian Sea. Indian Navy’s guided missile frigate Tarkash will continue to exercise with the French Navy’s Carrier Strike Group (CSG) from 28th April to 1st May 2021 participating in advanced surface, anti-submarine and air-defence operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th edition of bilateral exercise “VARUNA-2021” between India & France – conducted in the Arabian Sea
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

Schemes & Initiatives

1. On April 1, The finance ministry has withdrawn its decision to slash interest rates on small savings schemes like the Public Provident Fund and the National Savings Certificate (NSC). According to the latest decision, PPF and NSC will continue to offer interest of 7.1% and 6.8% for the coming 3 months. The Senior Citizen Savings Scheme will now earn 7.4% and the Sukanya Samriddhi Account scheme will now bear an interest of 7.6% from April 1. While, the Kisan Vikas Patra will offer 6.9% interest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Interest Rate of Small Savings Scheme for the Q1 of FY22:

Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.1%
National Savings Certificate (NSC)	6.8%
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.4%
Sukanya Samriddhi Account scheme	7.6%
Kisan Vikas Patra	6.9%
Post Office Savings Account	4%

2. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has launched “AIM-PRIME” (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship), an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India. AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this nationwide program which will be implemented by Venture Center. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – launched “AIM-PRIME” to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups
- PRIME – Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Ramanan Ramanathan)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

3. The Union Cabinet has approved the Central Sector Scheme - “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)” to support creation of global food manufacturing champions with an outlay of Rs 10900 Cr. The first component relates to incentivising manufacturing of 4 major food product segments viz. Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/ RTE) foods, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Marine Products, Mozzarella Cheese. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet – approved the “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)”
- Outlay – Rs 10900 Cr
- 4 major food product segments:
- Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/ RTE) foods
- Processed Fruits & Vegetables
- Marine Products
- Mozzarella Cheese

4. On April 1, The government has extended the ₹3-lakh-Cr Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by another 3 months till June 30 and also widened its scope to new sectors, including hospitality, travel and tourism. ECLGS 3.0 would involve extending credit of up to 40% of total credit outstanding across all lending institutions and tenor of loans granted under ECLGS 3.0 would be 6 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme – for further 3 months (till June 30)
- Outlay of the ECLGS – ₹3 lakh Cr

5. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has launched a free travel facility for women in government buses within the state. Initially, the promise was to reduce bus ticket prices for women by 50%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – launched a free travel facility for women in government buses
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

6. As on April 4, More than ₹25,000 Cr have been sanctioned to over 1.14 lakh accounts under the 'Stand Up India scheme' that was launched by the government 5 years ago to promote entrepreneurship among SCs, STs & women. As per the scheme, bank loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 Cr are routed to at least one SC or ST borrower, and at least one woman borrower. The scheme has now been extended till 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Over ₹25,000 Cr sanctioned to over 1.14 lakh accounts under 'Stand Up India scheme' – among SCs, STs & women
- 'Stand Up India scheme' is extended – till 2025 | The scheme was launched – in 2016

7. Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 'Unique Gift Scheme' to promote Covid Vaccination in the state. On the occasion of World Health Day on 7th April, state government will conduct a lucky draw for those who have taken the vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a 'Unique Gift Scheme' to promote Covid Vaccination in the state
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

8. On April 7, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare along with Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs has launched "Anamaya" initiative, the Tribal Health Collaborative. The initiative is supported by Piramal Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan + Arjun Munda = launched "Anamaya" initiative - the Tribal Health Collaborative
- The initiative is supported = by Piramal Foundation (Mumbai) + Melinda Gates Foundation (US)

9. On April 7, The Union Cabinet has approved two Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for White Goods (Air-conditioners and LED lights) with an outlay of ₹6,238 Cr and high-efficiency Solar Photovoltaic Modules with an outlay of ₹4,500 Cr. The scheme would extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods made in India for 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Cabinet approved PLI schemes for White Goods (₹6,238 Cr) & Solar Photovoltaic Modules (₹4,500 Cr)
- White Goods: Air-conditioners and LED lights
- [Total 13 sectors are listed under the PLI scheme](#)

10. The government of India has announced scholarships to 2000 descendants of Muktiyoddha or the Liberation War fighters of Bangladesh under its new Muktiyoddha Scholarship scheme. The scheme was started in 2006. The new scheme was aimed to benefit 10,000 students from Bangladesh over a period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Muktiyoddha Scholarship scheme – for the students from Bangladesh (Scheme was started in 2006)
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

11. On April 7, More than 28.68 Cr loans worth Rs 14.96 lakh Cr were sanctioned by banks, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) and Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) since launch of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY). 88% loans are of 'SHISHU' category, 24% are of new entrepreneurs and 68% are given to women entrepreneurs. Under PMMY, collateral free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh are extended by member lending institutions. The PMMY was launched in 2015. The Shishu category covers loans up to Rs 50,000, the Kishore category offers loans above Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh and the Tarun category above Rs 5 lakh-Rs 10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 28.68 Cr loans worth Rs 14.96 lakh Cr – sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) till date
- Collateral free loans of up to “Rs 10 lakh” are extended under PMMY | PMMY was launched – in 2015
- Shishu category – Rs 50,000 | Kishore category – Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh | Tarun category – Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh

12. On April 16, “Gender Samvaad” was launched in a joint initiative by the Ministry of Rural Development’s Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) by LEAD. The event falls under the Azadi Amrut Mahotsav. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DAY-NRLM ([MoRD](#)) + IWWAGE ([LEAD](#)) = launched “Gender Samvaad”
- [Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj – Narendra Singh Tomar \(Morena, MP\)](#)

13. On April 20, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has launched the “Startup India Seed Fund” scheme (SISF) that will support India’s domestic entrepreneurs and their business ideas. It was set-up with a corpus of Rs 945 Cr for 4 years. Eligible Incubators selected by Experts Advisory Committee will receive Rs 5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal has launched the “Startup India Seed Fund” scheme (SISF) – with a corpus of Rs 945 Cr for 4 years
- Eligible Incubators will receive – Rs 5 Cr



14. On April 19, Andhra Pradesh Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's government has provided a financial assistance of ₹65,000 Cr to the farmers under various schemes. He has launched the “YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme”. Under the scheme, an amount of ₹128.47 Cr was directly credited into the bank accounts of the 6.27 lakh farmers who had availed themselves of crop loan of up to ₹1 lakh during the 2019-20 Rabi season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – provided a financial assistance of ₹65,000 Cr to the farmers under various schemes
- Andhra Pradesh – launched the “YSR Zero Interest Crop Loan Scheme” (Outlay - ₹128.47 Cr)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

15. On April 20, The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) scheme has been extended for a period of 1 year for Health workers fighting COVID-19. The Insurance cover of up to Rs 50 lakhs has been provided under the scheme and 287 claims have been paid by the insurance company so far. The scheme is implemented by New India Assurance (NIA) Company & funded through the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Garib Kalyan Package scheme extended for a period of 1 year (Insurance cover of up to Rs 50 lakhs)
- The scheme is implemented by – New India Assurance | The scheme is funded through – NDRF

16. On April 19, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has released the first instalment of fee reimbursement under “Jagananna Vidya Deevena” scheme amounting to nearly ₹672 Cr. The money was directly transferred into the bank accounts of the mothers of 10.88 lakh students pursuing higher studies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st installment (₹672 Cr) of fee reimbursement under “Jagananna Vidya Deevena” scheme is released
- “Jagananna Vidya Deevena” – is for the Students pursuing higher studies
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

17. On April 22, Haryana government has launched the “Haryana COVID Emergency Loan Scheme” for new and old Entrepreneurs supplying medicines, oxygen and other medical facilities to COVID-19 patients in the state. The state government has set up a fund of Rs 500 Cr for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched the “Haryana COVID Emergency Loan Scheme” – with an outlay of Rs 500 Cr
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

18. The Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is planning to raise the maximum age of entry into the National Pension System (NPS) to 70 years from 65. The pension authority, which regulates both NPS and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), has registered 23% growth in its subscriber base under both the schemes with over 42.4 million subscribers by March 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PFRDA – to raise the maximum age of entry into the National Pension System (NPS) – to 70 years (from 65)
- PFRDA – to allow subscribers who join after the age of 60 to continue their NPS accounts – till the age of 75
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay



19. On April 24, PM Narendra Modi has launched distribution of e-property cards under “SWAMITVA” (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme to 4.09 lakh property owners in 5,000 villages. The scheme will cover 6.62 lakh villages by 2025. PM Narendra Modi has also conferred ‘National Panchayat Awards 2021’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi launched distribution of e-property cards under “SWAMITVA” scheme
- The scheme will cover 6.62 lakh villages – by 2025
- SWAMITVA – Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas

20. On April 28, The Haryana cabinet has approved “HARIHAR” scheme/policy to provide jobs on compassionate grounds and economically weaker section (EWS) status to children either abandoned or surrendered and turned 18-year-old while living in child-care institutions across state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – approved “HARIHAR” scheme/policy to abandoned & surrendered children
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

21. On April 29, The Punjab cabinet has approved an increase in financial assistance under the ‘Ashirwad’ Scheme, earlier known as Shagun Scheme, from ₹21,000 to ₹51,000 per beneficiary for the marriage of women belonging to low-income families. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab cabinet – approved an increase in financial assistance from ₹21,000 to ₹51,000 – under ‘Ashirwad’ Scheme
- [Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore](#)

22. The Labour Ministry has implemented a decision of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Central Board of Trustees (CBT) to hike the maximum sum assured payable under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 to Rs 7 lakh from the existing Rs 6 lakh. The CBT had also decided to continue payment of minimum sum assured of Rs 2.5 lakh under the scheme beyond February 14, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Ministry hiked maximum sum assured payable under EDLI scheme – to Rs 7 lakh
- The CBT will continue payment of minimum sum assured of Rs 2.5 lakh – beyond Feb 14, 2020
- [HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Sunil Barthwal | Established in – 1952](#)

23. Karnal district administration in Haryana has started a unique “Oxygen on Wheels” initiative to ensure incessant supply of Medical Oxygen to both Government & Private Hospitals. Under this initiative a carrier vehicle called as “Mobile Oxygen Bank” loaded with 100 Oxygen Cylinders reaches out to any district hospital which requisitions its urgent supply. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnal ([Haryana](#)) – started a unique “Oxygen on Wheels” initiative by using “Mobile Oxygen Bank”
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

Sports & Games

1. Virat Kohli has become the third captain to lead India in 200 international matches. He led India for the 200th time in the third ODI against England. Thus, he joined his predecessor MS Dhoni and Mohammad Azharuddin as the only players to have led India in 200 international matches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – became the 3rd captain to lead India in 200 international matches
- 1st – MS Dhoni | 2nd – Mohammad Azharuddin

2. All-rounder Thisara Perera has become the first Sri Lankan to hit 6 sixes in an over in any form of professional cricket during a domestic tournament. Perera has played six Tests, 166 ODIs and 64 T20 Internationals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thisara Perera – became the 1st Sri Lankan to hit 6 sixes in an over in any form of professional Cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

3. Indian Premier League (IPL) side Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) has signed a strategic long-term partnership with global sports brand Puma. Under the terms of the deal, Puma will be the official kit partner of RCB from the upcoming season of the league. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RCB + Puma = a strategic long-term partnership
- HQs of Puma – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Bjorn Gulden
- Chairman of the IPL Governing Council – Brijesh Patel | Title sponsor of the 14th edition of “IPL 2021” – Vivo

4. The “2023 Women's World Cup” will be spread across 9 cities & 10 stadiums in Australia and New Zealand. This World Cup will also be the first to feature 32 teams, up from the 24 that participated in the 2019 women's tournament in France. The U.S. women's national team is the defending champion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2023 Women's World Cup” will be spread across 9 cities & 10 stadiums in Australia & New Zealand
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern

5. On April 1, Aniyon Midhun of Nattika (Kerala) has won the Gold at the “South Asian Wushu Championship” that concluded in Nepal on March 31. She represented India in the 70-kg category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aniyon Midhun (Kerala) – won the Gold at the “South Asian Wushu Championship” (70-kg category)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

6. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has announced that the “2023 men’s Boxing World Championships” will be held in Uzbekistan capital Tashkent. The competition will be hosted by Uzbekistan for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tashkent, Uzbekistan – to host men’s “Boxing World Championships - 2023”
- [Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#)
- [HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev \(from Russia\)](#)

7. On April 2, Hubert Hurkacz of Poland has won the biggest title of his career beating 19-year-old Jannik Sinner of Italy in the Men’s singles title at the “Miami Open 2021”. Ashleigh Barty has won the Women’s title of “Miami Open 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hubert Hurkacz ([Poland](#)) – won Men’s singles title at the “Miami Open 2021”
- Ashleigh Barty ([Australia](#)) – won Women’s singles title at the “Miami Open 2021”

8. On April 4, Indian players have topped the medal tally at the 3rd Fazza-Dubai Para Badminton International in Dubai with 21 medals, including 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 10 Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – topped the medal tally at the 3rd Fazza-Dubai Para Badminton International in Dubai
- Total medal 21 = 5 Gold + 6 Silver + 10 Bronze

9. The Indian team has retained the 8th spot in the rankings despite losing their 3rd match in the competition. Indian Captain Virat Kohli is ICC’s No. 1 batsman in ODI format. The rankings were topped by England, followed by Australia & New Zealand. India, who is the host in 2023, and the other top 7 teams will qualify automatically for the World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian team – retained the 8th spot in the rankings of the ICC World Cup Super League Standings
- ICC’s No. 1 batsman in ODI format – Virat Kohli
- 1st – England | 2nd – Australia | 3rd – New Zealand
- Total 8 teams will qualify automatically for the “2023 Cricket World Cup”

10. On April 8, Sailor Nethra Kumanan has become the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics. The 23-year-old from Chennai booked her maiden Olympics ticket by topping the Laser Radial race at the Mussanah Open Championship in Oman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nethra Kumanan ([Sailor-Tamil Nadu](#)) – became the 1st Indian Woman Sailor to qualify for the Olympics
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

11. On April 8, FIFA has suspended the National Football Federations of Pakistan and Chad after concerns over the governance of the two member associations. Pakistan soccer federation, known as the PFF, was suspended for 'Third-Party Interference' for the second time in 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FIFA – suspended the National Football Federations of Pakistan & Chad
- [HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland](#) | [President – Gianni Infantino](#) | [Founded – 1904](#)

12. On April 9, The Indo-Tibetan Border Police's (ITBP) Manisha Maun was awarded an out of turn promotion to the rank of Head Constable for winning a Gold medal at the "Cologne Boxing World Cup" held in Germany. She was a member of the Central Boxing team of ITBP and competed in the 57 kilograms weight category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manisha Maun ([Boxer-ITBP](#)) – won a Gold medal at the "Cologne Boxing World Cup" held in Germany (57 kg)
- [HQs of ITBP – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Surjeet Singh Deswal](#) | [ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat](#)

13. On April 10, India's young wrestlers Anshu Malik and Sonam Malik qualified for the Tokyo Olympics Games by winning silver medals at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers. India now has 3 women wrestlers (including Vinesh Phogat) who have qualified for the Tokyo Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinesh Phogat + Anshu Malik + Sonam Malik = qualified for the Tokyo Olympics Games ([Indian Wrestlers](#))

14. On April 10, Union Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurated "Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Rowing Discipline" at the J & K Sports Council Water Sports Academy in Srinagar on 10th April 2021. A consolidated amount of Rs. 5.08 Cr is approved for the 2 centres in Jammu & Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – inaugurated "Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Rowing Discipline" – in Srinagar
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar](#) | [Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)
- [Sports Minister – Kiren Rijiju](#) | [Constituency – Arunachal West](#)

15. On April 10, Rachael Blackmore, a 31-year-old Irishwoman has become the first female jockey to win Britain's grueling Grand National Horse Race. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rachael Blackmore ([Ireland-Jockey](#)) – became the first female jockey to win Britain's Grand National Horse Race

16. On April 12, Resolute and relentless, Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa has won the prestigious "Polgar Challenge" during the Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour. Pragganandhaa (15.5 points) scored 14 victories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. Pragganandhaa ([India-Chess](#)) – won the "Polgar Challenge" during the Julius Baer Challengers Chess Tour

17. On April 13, New Zealand men's captain Kane Williamson was awarded the "Sir Richard Hadlee Medal" for the 4th time in 6 years. While Amelia Kerr and Devon Conway claimed double honours at the New Zealand Cricket Awards for the 2020-21 season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kane Williamson ([New Zealand - Cricket](#)) – awarded the "Sir Richard Hadlee Medal" for the 4th time in 6 years
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)

18. On April 14, India fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar was named "ICC Men's Player of the Month" for March 2021. In the women's category, South Africa's Lizelle Lee was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2021. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, took 6 ODI wickets and 4 T20I wickets. Lizelle Lee played 4 ODIs against India and scored a hundred and two half-centuries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhuvneshwar Kumar – named "ICC Men's Player of the Month" for March 2021
- Lizelle Lee ([South Africa](#)) – named "ICC Women's Player of the Month" for March 2021

19. On April 14, Former Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak was banned from all forms of Cricket for 8 years by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after he accepted 5 charges of breaching the ICC anti-corruption code. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Heath Streak ([Zimbabwe](#)) – banned from all forms of Cricket for 8 years – by the ICC
- [Zimbabwe – Harare – Dollar | President – Emmerson Mnangagwa](#)

20. On April 13, The World Table Tennis Championships will be held as per schedule from November 23 to 29 in Houston, USA. The ITTF Executive Committee also approved the new ITTF Team and Youth rankings with the regulations and first ranking lists set to be published in soon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Table Tennis Championships – to be held in Houston, USA
- [HQs of ITTF – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Weikert | Founded in – 1926](#)

21. On April 15, Sarita Mor has become the first Indian woman to win 2 consecutive Gold Medals in the 34th "Asian Wrestling Championships" as she secured her women's 59kg title in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Seema (50kg) and Pooja (76kg) have claimed bronze medals in the same championships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sarita Mor – became 1st Indian woman to win 2 consecutive Gold Medals in the 34th "Asian wrestling championships"
- Sarita Mor + Seema Bisla + Pooja Dhanda = Wrestling

22. On April 18, Red Bull's Max Verstappen has won "Emilia Romagna Grand Prix-2021" to register his first race victory of the Formula One 2021 season. Max Verstappen finished 1st ahead of Lewis Hamilton and Lando Norris. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Verstappen – won "Emilia Romagna Grand Prix-2021"
- Max Verstappen ([Netherlands](#)) – Red Bull team

23. On April 16, Ravi Kumar Dahiya became the third Indian male wrestler to secure a second Asian championships Gold medal in 57kg freestyle title in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Dahiya defeated Iranian Alireza Nosratolah Sarlak. Karan Mor (70kg), Narsingh Yadav (79kg) and Satyawart Kadian (97kg) won Bronze medals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya ([Indian Wrestler](#)) – won Gold medal in the 34th “Asian Wrestling Championships” (men’s)
- Karan Mor + Narsingh Yadav + Satyawart Kadian = Indian Wrestlers

24. On April 17, Nine venues - Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Dharamsala, Ahmedabad and Lucknow - have reportedly been picked by the BCCI apex council for the T20 World Cup slated to be held in India later this year. The final of the T20 World Cup 2021 will be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9 have reportedly been picked by the BCCI for the “T20 World Cup 2021”
- 9 Venues: Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Dharamsala, Ahmedabad & Lucknow
- Narendra Modi Stadium ([Ahmedabad](#)) – to host the final of the “T20 World Cup 2021”
- [HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | President – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah](#)

25. On April 17, Ace Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj has created a National Record in 50m backstroke while winning his second Gold of the Uzbekistan Open Championship. Indian swimmers enjoyed a rich haul of 29 medals - 18 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Srihari Nataraj ([Swimmer](#)) – created National Record in 50m – winning 2nd Gold in Uzbekistan Open Championship
- [Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#)

26. On April 13, Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has set a new world record in her last attempt to win bronze at the Asian Championship. She signed off with an incredible 119kg lift in clean and jerk, bettering the world record by 1kg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mirabai Chanu ([Manipur - Weightlifting](#)) – set a new world record of 119kg lift at the Asian Championship
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla](#)

27. On April 19, Former Sri Lanka cricketer Dilhara Lokuhettige was banned from all forms of Cricket for 8 years by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after being found guilty of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dilhara Lokuhettige ([Sri Lanka](#)) – banned from all forms of Cricket for 8 years – by ICC
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney](#)

28. On April 21, Arjun Kalyan has become India's 68th Grandmaster. The 18-year-old from Chennai crossed the 2500 ELO mark after scoring a win over Dragan Kosic in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" in Serbia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Kalyan ([Chess - Tamil Nadu](#)) – became India's 68th Grandmaster

29. On April 20, Stefanos Tsitsipas has won the men's singles title of "Monte Carlo Masters 2021" beating Andrey Rublev 6-3, 6-3 for his first title this year and sixth overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stefanos Tsitsipas ([Greece - Tennis](#)) – won the men's singles title of "Monte Carlo Masters 2021"
- [Greece – Athens – Euro](#) | [Turkey – Ankara – Lira](#)

30. On April 21, Haryana & Delhi will host the 4th edition of "Khelo India Youth Games-2021" in Panchkula, Ambala, Shahabad, Chandigarh and Delhi from November 21 to December 5, in which various sports activities under-18 category would be organised. Approx 8500 participants would take part in the "Khelo India Youth Games-2021". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana & Delhi – to host the 4th edition of "Khelo India Youth Games-2021"
- It will be held in – Panchkula, Ambala, Shahabad, Chandigarh & Delhi
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh](#) | [CM – Manohar Lal Khattar](#) | [Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Governor – Anil Baijal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

31. On April 21, Carolina Marin and Kento Momota spearhead the list of top international entries at the much-anticipated "Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2021". The Badminton tournament will be conducted at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi from May 11-16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2021" to be held – at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall, in New Delhi
- Yonex-Sunrise India Open – associated with Badminton

32. On April 21, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned United Arab Emirates cricketer Qadeer Ahmed Khan for 5 years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Qadeer Ahmed Khan ([UAE - Cricketer](#)) – banned for 5 years by the ICC
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [CEO – Manu Sawhney](#)

33. On April 21, A 20-member Indian contingent has created history by securing 11 medals (8 Gold + 3 Bronze) at the on-going "AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships" held in Kielce, Poland. India women's team also finished as the No. 1 team with 7 medals. India has topped the overall medals tally which was followed by Russia & Uzbekistan. All the women finalists - Gitika (48kg) Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg), Poonam (57kg), Vinka (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69kg), T Sanamacha Chanu (75kg) and Alfiya Pathan (+81kg) registered victories and finished on the top of the podium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India topped the medals tally with 11 medals (8 Gold + 3 Bronze) – at “AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships”
- The Championship was held in – Kielce, Poland
- HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev (from Russia)

34. On April 25, Rafael Nadal of Spain has won the Barcelona Open for the 12th time. He lifts the trophy after winning the final Godo tennis tournament against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in Barcelona, Spain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – won the “Barcelona Open” for the 12th time
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

35. Indian boxer Amit Panghal (52kg) has won a Bronze medal at the Governor's Cup in St. Petersburg, Russia. Amit was the lone Indian to make the medal rounds of the Governor's Cup. He also became India's first world championship finalist in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Panghal ([Indian boxer](#)) – won a Bronze medal at the Governor's Cup – in St. Petersburg, Russia

36. India's Jhilli Dalabehera has clinched the Gold medal in the 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Jhilli lifted 69kg in the snatch and followed that up by 88kg in clean jerk. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jhilli Dalabehera ([Weightlifting](#)) – won Gold medal in the 45kg category at the “Asian Weightlifting Championship”
- The Championship was held in – Tashkent, Uzbekistan

37. Indian archery's star couple Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari have won the men and women individual recurve Gold medals in the Archery World Cup in Guatemala. India has claimed total 3 Gold medals and a bronze in the tournament's first stage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atanu Das & Deepika Kumari ([Archery](#)) – won men & women individual Gold medals in the “Archery World Cup”
- [Guatemala – Guatemala city – Guatemalan Quetzal | President – Alejandro Giammattei](#)

38. B. Savitha Shri has completed her third and final norm in the “Belgrade Spring Festival Chess Tournament” in Serbia to become a Woman International Master. The 14-year-old B. Savitha Shri belongs to Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B. Savitha Shri – completed her 3rd & final norm in the “Belgrade Spring Festival Chess Tournament” in Serbia
- B. Savitha Shri ([Tamil Nadu - Chess](#)) – became a Woman International Master



39. On April 25, Manchester City has clinched its 4th consecutive League Cup title called “EFL Cup” or “Carabao Cup Football title” after beating Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 at Wembley. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manchester City – clinched its 4th consecutive “EFL Cup” or “Carabao Cup Football title”
- [Wembley stadium – England, UK](#)

40. On April 29, In the wake of international travel restrictions to India, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), in consultation with Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC), has decided to conduct the upcoming 2021 edition of the “ASBC Asian Elite Men and Women Boxing Championships” in Dubai, UAE. The event will now be organised by BFI in association with UAE Boxing Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BFI + ASBC = decided to conduct “2021 ASBC Asian Elite Men & Women Boxing Championships” – in Dubai, UAE
- [HQs of BFI – Gurugram, Haryana | President – Ajay Singh](#)
- [HQs of ASBC – Abu Dhabi, UAE](#)



Important Days & Dates

1. The India Centre for Migration (ICM) has celebrated its Foundation Day on March 27 as part of India@75 celebrations. ICM is a research thinktank of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). It was established in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 27 – Foundation Day of India Centre for Migration (ICM)
- India Centre for Migration – a research thinktank of the Ministry of External Affairs

2. 'Utkal Divas' or 'Odisha day' is observed on April 1 every year. This year, Odisha celebrates its 86th foundation day. In 1936, Odisha was the first state that was formed on a linguistic basis. Earlier, it was the part of Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 1 – 'Utkal Divas' or 'Odisha day' or 86th foundation day of Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

3. April 2 is Hans Christian Andersen's birthday and since 1967 "International Children's Book Day" has been celebrated on or around this day to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. This year, the theme is "The Music of Words". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 2 – International Children's Book Day (since 1967 | Birth anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen)
- Theme – "The Music of Words"

4. April 2 is recognised internationally and celebrated as "World Autism Awareness Day" every year since 2012. This year, the theme is "Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day (since 2012)
- Theme – "Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World"

5. On April 1, The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has declared in a notification that April 14 will be a public holiday for all central government offices on account of the birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna' in 1990. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 14 – Public Holiday for all central government offices – due to birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar

6. Every year, April 4 is observed as the "International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action". The day was approved by the General Assembly on 8 December in the year 2005. This year, the theme is "Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 4 – International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- Theme/New Exhibit – "Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress"

7. April 5 is celebrated all around the world as “International Day of Conscience”. Declared by the United Nations, this day is observed in order to self-reflect on our life and try and do the right things all the time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 5 – 2nd International Day of Conscience (1st was observed in 2020)

8. Every year on April 5, the “National Maritime Day” is celebrated, in an effort to create awareness in supporting safe and environmentally sound intercontinental commerce and the global economy. The World Maritime Day is observed on the last week of September on Thursday annually. The day was observed for the first time in 1964 and this year, marks the 58th edition of the National Maritime Day. This year, the theme is “Sustainable Shipping beyond COVID-19”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 5 – 58th “National Maritime Day” (since 1964)
- Theme – “Sustainable Shipping beyond COVID-19”

9. Freedom fighter Babu Jagjivan Ram’s 114th birth anniversary was celebrated on 5 April 2021. Jagjivan Ram had participated in the Indian Independence movement and was a member of Cabinet led by the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 5 – 114th birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan (a Freedom fighter)

10. The United Nations has designated April 6 as “International Day of Sport for Development and Peace” to celebrate sport as an enabler of positive social change and community development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 6 – “International Day of Sport for Development and Peace”

11. The United Nations proclaimed April 7 as the “International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda” to honour and remember those who suffered and lost their lives in the East African Nation 27 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 7 – “International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda”

12. “World Health Day” is observed every year on April 7 since 1950. This day is aimed at creating awareness of a specific health theme and also to highlight a priority area of concern for the WHO. This year, the theme is “Building a fairer, healthier world”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 7 – “World Health Day”
- Theme – “Building a fairer, healthier world”
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194



13. Europe has observed “International Romani Day” intended to raise awareness for the situation of the Roma people, every April 8 since 1990, when it was first commemorated. The date was chosen in remembrance of the first World Romani Conference held on April 8, 1971, in London, England. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the 1st Romani Congress. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 8 – “International Romani Day” (first commemorated in 1990)
- 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1st Romani Congress that was held on April 8, 1971, in London, England

14. On April 8, The CRPF celebrates April 9 as “Valour Day” to commemorate the defence of the Sardar post in the Rann of Kutch at the onset of the Indo-Pak War of 1965. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 9 – “Valour Day” celebrated by CRPF (also known as ‘Shaurya Diwas’)
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldip Singh | Formed – 1939 | Motto – Service & Loyalty

15. “World Table Tennis Day” is globally observed on 6th April to promote table tennis world wide. The day was selected by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 6 – “World Table Tennis Day”
- HQs of ITTF – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Weikert | Founded in – 1926

16. Mangal Pandey, a soldier in the British East India Company, was hanged on 8th April for revolting against the colonial rulers. His death anniversary is observed on April 8. Mangal Pandey, a sepoy, had led the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 - the first war of Indian Independence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 8 – Death Anniversary of Mangal Pandey (He led ‘Sepoy Mutiny of 1857’- the first war of Indian Independence)

17. On April 10, World Homeopathy Day is celebrated across the world. The day is celebrated in the form of celebrating Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann’s birth anniversary, a German physician and founding father of this branch of medicine. This year, the theme is “Homeopathy - Roadmap for Integrative Medicine”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 10 – World Homeopathy Day (Birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann)
- Theme – “Homeopathy - Roadmap for Integrative Medicine”
- April 10-16 – World Homeopathy Awareness Week

18. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has celebrated its 71st Foundation Day on April 9. Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre at Indian Embassy in Beijing celebrated ICCR Foundation Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 9 – 71st Foundation Day of ICCR
- Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre – in Beijing, China
- HQs of ICCR – New Delhi | DG – Dineshk Patnaik | Founded in – 1950

19. “World Parkinson's Day” is observed every year on 11th April to create awareness about the disease among the general public. The disease can cause slowness of the movements, stiffness and shakiness of the body. The month of April is considered to be “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 11 – World Parkinson's Day
- April 11 to 17 – Parkinson’s Awareness Week
- April – Parkinson’s Awareness Month

20. National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD) is observed annually on 11 April in India. The day is dedicated to creating awareness for medical facilities for pregnant and lactating women. This year, the theme is “Stay at home during coronavirus, keep mother and newborn safe from coronavirus”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 11 – National Safe Motherhood Day
- Theme – “Stay at home during coronavirus, keep mother and newborn safe from coronavirus”
- April 11 – Birth Anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi

21. The Godfather of world music, Pandit Ravi Shankar was one of the most influential and prolific Indian Sitar Maestros. This year, April 7th marked his 101st birth anniversary. The sitar maestro was honoured with a Bharat Ratna; had won 5 Grammys, and was nominated for an Academy award, too. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 7 – 101st birth anniversary of Pandit Ravi Shankar ([Indian Sitar Maestros](#))

22. Every year, the world celebrates April 12 as the “International Day of Human Space Flight”. The day celebrates the beginning of mankind's space journey. Yuri Gagarin manned the first human space flight that took off on April 12, 1961. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 12 – International Day of Human Space Flight
- Yuri Gagarin – the first to orbit the Earth on April 12, 1961

23. This year, with the ongoing pandemic and surge in Covid-19 cases, the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Society (PDMDS) has virtually celebrated the “World Parkinson’s Day” on April 11 with a themed “The year that was... Connected we live better”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 11 – World Parkinson’s Day
- Theme – “The year that was... Connected we live better”

24. April 13 has marked the day of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, and this is the 102nd anniversary of the incident. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre refers to the incident that took place in 1919 at Amritsar’s Jallianwala Bagh. The incident is seen as a major turning point in the national freedom movement of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 13 – 102nd anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre or Amritsar Massacre – 1919
- [Jallianwala Bagh](#) – located in Amritsar, Punjab



25. The Global Community is celebrating “World Chagas Disease Day” for the second time on April 14, 2021. The disease also known as ‘American Trypanosomiasis’, can be transmitted by vectorial transmission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 14 – 2nd edition of “World Chagas Disease Day”
- Chagas disease is also known as ‘American Trypanosomiasis’

26. National Fire Service Day was recently observed on April 14. This year, the theme is “Maintenance of fire safety equipment is key to mitigate fire hazards”. The Day is observed to pay homage to 66 firemen and officers of the Mumbai Fire Brigade who lost their lives while fighting a major fire on the ship, Fort Stikine, in 1944. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 14 – National Fire Service Day
- Theme – “Maintenance of fire safety equipment is key to mitigate fire hazards”

27. International Day for Street Children is recently observed on April 12. This year, the theme is “Access to Essential Services”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 12 – International Day for Street Children
- Theme – “Access to Essential Services”

28. Indian Army has observed 36th “Siachen Day” remembering the gallant martyrs of Siachen. On April 13, 1984, the Indian Army launched “Operation Meghdoot” to secure Bilafond La and other passes on the Saltoro Ridgeline from Pakistani aggression. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 13 – 36th “Siachen Day” observed by Indian Army
- Indian Army launched “Operation Meghdoot” – on April 13, 1984
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane](#) | [Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

29. On April 11, World Art Day was observed on April 15, by the International Association of Art (IAA) to promote awareness about fine arts worldwide. The day was celebrated for the first time in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 15 – World Art Day – by the International Association of Art (since 2012)
- [HQs of IAA – Paris, France](#)

30. The 72nd Himachal Day was celebrated on April 15 with gaiety and fervour in the state. Governor Acharya Devvrat unfurled the national flag at an event on the historic Ridge maidan in Shimla to mark the day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 15 – 72nd Himachal Day
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Jai Ram Thakur](#) | [Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya](#)



31. On April 14, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has hoisted the Indian tricolour flag at the INA Martyr's complex in Moirang, Bishnupur district to mark the 77th anniversary of the Flag Hoisting Day of the Indian National Army (INA). It was on April 14, 1944 the flag of the INA was hoisted for the first time on the Indian soil at Moirang. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 14 – 77th anniversary of “Flag Hoisting Day” of the Indian National Army
- The flag of the INA was hoisted for the first time on – April 14, 1944 – at Moirang, Manipur
- [INA Martyr's Complex – in Moirang, Manipur](#)

32. World Voice Day is observed globally on April 16 and celebrates the phenomenon of voice. The theme for this year is “One World Many Voices”. World Voice Day was first observed in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 16 – World Voice Day (since 1999)
- Theme – “One World Many Voices”

33. Every year, April 17 is observed as World Hemophilia Day. Hemophilia is a rare disorder of the blood, in which it doesn't clot normally because it lacks sufficient blood-clotting proteins. This day also marks the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 17 – World Hemophilia Day (birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel)
- [HQs of World Federation of Hemophilia – Montreal, Canada](#)

34. Every year, the United Nations marks April 18 as the “International Day for Monuments and Sites”, in many countries also celebrated as “World Heritage Day”. The theme for this year is “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures”. Globally, the day is promoted by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). India is home to 38 UNESCO World Heritage Sites out of the 1121 such spots. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 18 – “International Day for Monuments and Sites” or “World Heritage Day” – by ICOMOS
- Theme – “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures”
- Number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India – 38
- [HQs of ICOMOS – Paris, France | President – Teresa Patricio](#)

35. “World Liver Day” is observed on April 19 every year, to spread awareness about the liver-related disease. The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, except the brain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 19 – “World Liver Day”

36. The UN Chinese Language Day is observed on April 20 every year since 2010, celebrating the language's contribution to the world while encouraging more people to learn it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 20 – UN Chinese Language Day (since 2010)

37. The 1004th birth anniversary of Sri Ramanuja Acharya was observed on April 18, 2021. Sri Ramanuja Acharya was born in 1017 CE at Shriperumbudur village in Tamil Nadu. He was a great theologian philosopher and thinker of devotional Hinduism. He is the most respected Acharya in the philosophy of Sri Vaishnavism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 18 – 1004th birth anniversary of Sri Ramanuja Acharya | Associated sect of Hinduism – Vaishnavism
- He was born in 1017 CE – at Shriperumbudur village (Tamil Nadu)

38. “World Creativity and Innovation Day” is an annual celebration on April 21 to celebrate the potential of creativity and innovation industry around the world. The celebration of the “World Creativity and Innovation Week” begins on the birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci on 15th April. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 21 – “World Creativity and Innovation Day”
- April 15 – Birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci

39. April 22 has marked “Earth Day”, an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. The year 2021 marked the 51st anniversary of the annual celebrations. This year’s theme for Earth Day is “Restore Our Earth”. 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 – “Restore Our Earth”

40. As Jharkhand continues to witness a surge in coronavirus cases, the CM Hemant Soren has announced lockdown across the state from April 22-29. The CM stated that the lockdown period will be observed as “Health Safety Week”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 22 to 29 – “Health Safety Week” – by Jharkhand
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

41. “Administrative Professionals Day” was recently observed on April 21 across many countries. It is also known as Secretaries Day or Admin Day.

Key Points:

- April 21 – “Administrative Professionals Day” or “Secretaries Day” or “Admin Day”

42. Every year, the “International Girls in ICT Day” is globally observed on the 4th Thursday in April. This year, the 10th anniversary of the International Girls in ICT (Information & Communication Technologies) day was marked on April 22. This year the theme was “Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 22 (4th Thursday) – 10th anniversary of the “International Girls in ICT Day”
- Theme – “Connected Girls, Creating Brighter Futures”

43. UN English Language Day and Spanish Language Day are observed annually on April 23. The aim is to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity by exploring the languages. English Language Day marks the birthday and date of death of famed writer William Shakespeare. While, Spanish language day marks the death anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

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

44. “World Book Day”, also known as “World Book and Copyright Day”, is celebrated across the globe on April 23 every year. It is organised by the UNESCO. This year marked the 25th edition of World Book Day. This year, the theme is “To Share a Story”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 23 – 25th edition of “World Book Day” or “World Book & Copyright Day” – by the UNESCO
- Theme – “To Share a Story”

45. The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Since then, the “National Panchayati Raj Day” is celebrated on April 24 every year in India. The day is annually commemorated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 24 – “National Panchayati Raj Day” (since 2010)

46. “World Veterinary Day” or “World Day for Laboratory Animals” is widely observed annually on the last Saturday of April, every year across the world. This year, it falls on April 24. In 1863, in Hamburg (Germany), Veterinary College Professor John Gamgee from Edinburgh led the first International Veterinary Congress meeting. This year, the theme of “World Veterinary Day” is “The Veterinarian Response to the Covid-19 Crisis”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 24 (last Saturday of April) – “World Veterinary Day” or “World Day for Laboratory Animals”
- Theme – “The Veterinarian Response to the Covid-19 Crisis”

47. The United Nations “International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace” was observed on April 24 to promote the 3 pillars of the United Nations - Peace & Security, Development and Human Rights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 24 – UN “International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”
- 3 pillars of UN: Peace & Security, Development and Human Rights



48. The week from 24th to 30th April is observed globally as “World Immunization Week”. The aim is to raise awareness about and increase immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases. This year, the theme is “Vaccines bring us closer”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 24 to 30 – World Immunization Week
- Theme – “Vaccines bring us closer”

49. “World Penguin Day” is annually celebrated on April 25. It encourages people to learn more about penguins and their environment, how important they are to our ecosystems and the threats that they face. Penguins are flightless birds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “World Penguin Day”

50. “International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day” is observed on April 26. This year, the day marks the 35th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on 26 April 1986 in Ukraine - one of the most serious nuclear accidents in history. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 26 – “International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day”
- 35th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on 26 April 1986 in Ukraine
- [Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky](#)

51. “International Delegates Day” was established in 2019 by the UN General Assembly. It is observed annually on April 25. The day seeks to commemorate the 850 delegates from fifty countries who participated in the San Francisco Conference in 1945. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “International Delegate’s Day” – by UNGA (since 2019)

52. “World Intellectual Property Day” is observed on April 26 each year with a variety of events and activities worldwide. It aims to increase people’s awareness and understanding of intellectual property (IP). This year, the theme is “IP and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs): Taking your ideas to market”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 26 – “World Intellectual Property Day” (since 2000)
- Theme – “IP and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs): Taking your ideas to market”

53. The World Malaria Day was observed on 25th April 2021 and the theme of this year was “Reaching the zero-malaria target”. India represents 3% of the global malaria burden. The WHO launched E-2025 initiative to end the transmission of malaria in 25 more countries by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “World Malaria Day” | Theme – “Reaching the Zero-Malaria Target”
- The WHO launched E-2025 initiative to end the transmission of malaria in 25 more countries by 2025



54. The “World Day for Safety and Health at Work” is celebrated every year on April 28 to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. The Day was first observed in 2003 by the International Labour Organization (ILO). 28 April is also observed as the “International Commemoration Day for Deceased and Injured Workers”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 28 – “World Day for Safety & Health at Work” – by the ILO (since 2003)
- April 28 – “International Commemoration Day for Deceased and Injured Workers”

55. “Anzac Day” was recently celebrated between New Zealand and Australia on April 25. ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day is the anniversary of the landing of troops from Australia and New Zealand on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, in World War I on April 25, 1915. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “Anzac Day” celebrated between New Zealand & Australia
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

56. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has been celebrating the “Play True Day” on April 9 since 2014. It is dedicated to clean sport and is aimed at raising awareness among athletes and other sporting figures about the importance of protecting it. This year’s theme is “What does Play True mean to you?”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 9 – Play True Day – celebrated by WADA (since 2014)
- Theme – “What does Play True mean to you?”

57. “International Dance Day” is annually on April 29 to encourage participation and education in dance. The official Dance Day ceremonies were launched in 1982. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 29 – “International Dance Day”

58. “Ayushman Bharat Diwas” is celebrated by India on April 30. The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of India based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database. The AB-PMJAY is also titled ‘National Health Protection Scheme’ & ‘ModiCare’. The day also aimed to benefit 50 Cr beneficiaries in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 30 – “Ayushman Bharat Diwas”
- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was launched – in 2018

59. “International Jazz Day” is celebrated on April 30 every year. This Day is intended to raise awareness of the virtues of jazz as an educational tool. Jazz is a style of music that began in the early 20th Century. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 30 – “International Jazz Day”

60. This year, Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on April 25. It takes place in March or April, as per the Gregorian calendar. The day is celebrated across the world by the Jain community in memory of the last spiritual teacher of Jainism. Bhagwan Mahavir was the 24th Jain Tirthankar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 25 – “Mahavir Jayanti” celebrated by the Jain community
- Bhagwan Mahavir – the 24th Jain Tirthankar

61. The “National Civil Services Day” is observed on April 21 every year and is dedicated to India's civil servants for their contribution and hard work in public administration. The first National Civil Service Day was observed in the year 2006. The Government of India chose April 21 as the National Civil Service Day as on this day the country's first home minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed Administrative Services Officers in 1947. Sardar Patel had referred to the civil servants as the “Steel frame of India”. [{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



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. On April 1, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) on Afghanistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S Jaishankar – attended 9th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- [Tajikistan – Dushanbe – Somoni | President – Emomali Rahmon](#)

2. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has participated in a panel discussion on vaccine production and distribution across Asia at the 1st “World Immunisation and Logistics Summit” conducted by the HOPE Consortium in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Dr. Harsh Vardhan showcased India’s vaccine administration program; the development of two vaccines in our country- Covishield and Covaxin. India produces 60% of the world’s vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – participated in the 1st “World Immunisation and Logistics Summit”
- The summit was conducted by the HOPE Consortium – in Abu Dhabi, UAE

3. The External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar has participated in the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on April 1, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Sri Lanka. He highlighted the Master Connectivity Plan among the South and Southeast Asian countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – participated in the 17th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting – chaired by Sri Lanka
- [BIMSTEC member countries: 7 – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand](#)
- [HQs of BIMSTEC – Dhaka, Bangladesh | Secretary General – H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell](#)
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee](#)
- [PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa](#)

4. Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has participated in the virtual Climate and Development Ministerial meet in the run up to COP26, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference 2021. COP26 will be hosted by Glasgow, UK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – participated in the virtual Climate & Development Ministerial meet in the run up to “COP26”
- Glasgow, UK – to host COP26

5. On April 6, Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre has attended a “Consultation Meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries”. The meeting will be held on the theme, “E9 initiative: Scaling up digital learning to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4”. The 9 Countries are China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico & Nigeria. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Dhotre – attended “Consultation Meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries”
- Theme – “E9 initiative: Scaling up digital learning to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4”



6. On April 6, India has hosted a “Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors” virtually on April 6, 2021. This was the first such meeting under India Chairship in 2021. Nirmala Sitharaman & Governor of RBI, Shaktikanta Das Chaired the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted the 1st “Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors” in 2021
- [BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa](#)
- [Chairmanship of BRICS – Russia in 2020 & Indian in 2021](#)

7. On April 7, Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has participated in the 2nd edition of “G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting” under the Italian Presidency to discuss policy responses to global challenges to restore strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. She supported the extension of Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) till December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in 2nd “G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting”
- The meeting was held under the Presidency of – Italy

8. On April 8, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has chaired a meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) to commemorate the 400th Birth Anniversary (Prakash Purab) of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The HLC has 70 members including the Prime Minister as Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The High-Level Committee (HLC) to commemorate the 400th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
- Chairman of the Committee – Narendra Modi | Total no. of members – 70

9. On April 7, The 3rd India-Bahrain High Joint Commission meeting was held in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd India-Bahrain High Joint Commission meeting – held in New Delhi
- It was co-chaired by = S. Jaishankar + Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain)
- [Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa](#)

10. On April 9, PM Narendra Modi and Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands have held a Virtual Summit. It was the first high level Summit attended by PM Rutte after the general elections held in March 2021. The two Prime Ministers agreed on instituting a ‘Strategic Partnership on Water’. They also agreed to set-up 25 Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Indian Agriculture sector by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi & Mr. Mark Rutte – held a Virtual Summit
- They agreed on instituting a ‘Strategic Partnership on Water’
- They also agreed to set-up 25 Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Indian Agriculture sector – by 2025
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte](#)

11. The 30th session of the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Ministerial Committee was hosted by India on April 7-8. The committee was chaired by Prakash Javadekar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India hosted – 30th session of the BASIC Ministerial Committee
- The committee was chaired by – Prakash Javadekar
- BASIC – Brazil, South Africa, India & China

12. On April 9, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has participated in 103rd edition of the Development Committee Meeting of World Bank & International Monetary Fund (IMF). During the meeting, Smt. Sitharaman has shared that the Government has announced Aatma Nirbhar Packages of Rs 27.1 trillion, amounting to more than 13% of the GDP. She was the representative of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan & Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in 103rd edition of Development Committee Meeting – of World Bank & IMF
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., USA | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

13. On April 15, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has chaired the first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) set up to advise the government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in India. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in January had constituted the Council to drive sustainable economic growth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – chaired the first meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC)
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

14. The United Nations Secretary General has called for the first ever “UN Food Systems Summit” to be held in September 2021, in New York, USA to strategize the actions for positive change in Agri-food systems in the World to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first ever “UN Food Systems Summit” to be held in September 2021 – in New York, USA
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

15. The Energy Forum (TEF) and the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) are organising a Hydrogen Roundtable titled “Hydrogen Economy-the Indian Dialogue-2021” in a virtual mode on 15th April, 2021. This high-level roundtable conference will be led by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel. India & US agreed to set-up a Hydrogen Task Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TEF + FIPI = organised a Hydrogen Roundtable titled “Hydrogen Economy-the Indian Dialogue-2021”
- Dharmendra Pradhan – led the high-level roundtable conference
- India & US – agreed to set-up a “Hydrogen Task Force”
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

16. On April 11, Indian Army chief Gen M. M. Naravane has attended the “Army Chiefs’ Conclave” held on the sidelines of a multinational military exercise - “Shantir Ogroshena (Frontrunners of Peace) 2021”. He delivered a keynote address on “Changing Nature of Global Conflicts: Role of UN Peacekeepers”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gen M. M. Naravane attended the “Army Chiefs’ Conclave” – held in Bangladesh
- M. M. Naravane delivered a keynote address on “Changing Nature of Global Conflicts: Role of UN Peacekeepers”
- India + Bhutan + Sri Lanka = participated in the “Shantir Ogroshena 2021” organised by Bangladesh
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

17. “Indian Air Force Commanders’ Conference 2021” was concluded on April 16. The theme of the conference was “Reorienting for the Future”. The three day conference saw detailed deliberations on ways and means to enhance the operational capabilities of the IAF. The conference was addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Indian Air Force Commanders’ Conference 2021” – held in New Delhi
- Theme – “Reorienting for the Future” | The conference was addressed by – Rajnath Singh
- [HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Founded in – 1932](#)

18. On April 13-14, The National Investigation Agency (NIA) organised the 2-day online event of the BRICS nations on the topic of “Misuse of Internet for Terrorist Purposes and Role of Digital Forensics in Terrorist Investigations”. The seminar was inaugurated by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla. The NIA organised the seminar as India is holding the BRICS chair for the year 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIA – organised “Misuse of Internet for Terrorist Purposes and Role of Digital Forensics in Terrorist Investigations”
- The seminar was inaugurated by – Ajay Bhalla (Union Home Secretary)
- [HQs of NIA – New Delhi | Director General – Y. C. Modi](#)

19. On April 20, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has addressed the 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccine, through video conference. It is the world’s largest gathering of stakeholders striving to develop and deploy new vaccines to prevent Tuberculosis (TB). The forum is convened by the “Stop TB Partnership” Working Group on New Vaccines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed 5th “Global Forum on TB Vaccine” – convened by Stop TB Partnership Working Group
- Chairman of “Stop TB Partnership” working group – Dr Harsh Vardhan
- Target to eliminate TB from India – by 2025 & from the entire world – by 2030

20. PM Narendra Modi has participated in “Leaders' Summit on Climate” hosted by US President Joe Biden on April 22. The US had invited 40 world leaders for the 2-day virtual Summit to galvanize efforts by the major economies to tackle the climate crisis. The PM will make his remarks on “Our Collective Sprint to 2030”. During the Summit, the US has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52% below its 2005 emissions levels by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi participated in the “Leaders’ Summit on Climate” – hosted by US
- Theme – “Our Collective Sprint to 2030”

21. The 20th edition of “2021 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference” was held in Boao, a coastal resort in South China's Hainan Province. This 4-day annual conference is themed around “A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Cooperation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 20th edition of “Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference” – held in Boao, Hainan, China
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

22. On April 28, Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs, Mrs. Riva Ganguly Das has co-chaired the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials’ Meeting with Permanent Secretary of Thailand H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi. The virtual Meeting saw the participation of Senior Officials from all ten ASEAN Member States and India. Singapore will serve as the next Coordinator of ASEAN for 3 years from 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Riva Ganguly Das (Secretary of MEA) – co-chaired the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials’ Meeting
- Singapore – to serve as the next Coordinator of ASEAN for 3 years from 2021
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10](#)

23. PM Narendra Modi has thanked President Vladimir Putin for Russia's help and support in India's fight against COVID-19 as the two leaders agreed to establish a “2+2 Ministerial Dialogue” between Foreign & Defence ministers to add further momentum to the bilateral strategic partnership. “Sputnik-V”, is the 3rd vaccine after Covishield & Covaxin that has been approved by the government for use in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Russia = agreed to establish a “2+2 Ministerial Dialogue” between Foreign & Defence ministers
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

24. On April 28, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has represented India at the “G-7 Digital & Technology Ministerial Meeting”. Theme of the meeting is “Building Back Better”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – represented India at the “G-7 Digital & Technology Ministerial Meeting”
- Theme – “Building Back Better”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. On April 1, Actor Rajinikanth will receive the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest award in Indian cinema. The prestigious award is named after the father of Indian cinema, Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, and was instituted in 1969. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajinikanth – to receive the 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award
- The award was instituted – in 1969 | Named after – Dhundiraj Govind Phalke

2. On April 2, Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan has been conferred the “Kalinga Ratna” award for the year 2021. The award instituted by Sarala Sahitya Sansad and was presented by M. Venkaiah Naidu during the 600th Birth Anniversary of Adikabi Sarala Das. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Biswa Bhusan Harichandan – conferred the “Kalinga Ratna Award 2021” – by M. Venkaiah Naidu
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

3. Kerala Agricultural University has been selected for the “Chancellor’s Award 2020” in the category of Specialised Universities. The award was instituted by the Governor of Kerala and Chancellor of Universities. The award carries prize money of ₹1 Cr and citation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Agricultural University – selected for the “Chancellor’s Award 2020” (Category – Specialised Universities)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

4. On April 2, Professor Suman Chakraborty has been selected for the 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare. Sumon Chakraborty is a faculty member at IIT Kharagpur. Instituted in 1991, the award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science or technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suman Chakraborty ([IIT Kharagpur](#)) – selected for the 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research
- The award was instituted – in 1991 (for Indian scientists below the age of 50)

5. ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) named Jeffrey David Ullman and Alfred Vaino Aho, “2020 ACM A.M. Turing Award” recipients for their work with fundamental algorithms and theory underlying programming language implementation and educating generations with influential books. The ACM A.M. Turing Award is considered the Nobel of Computing Science with \$1 million prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jeffrey David Ullman & Alfred Vaino Aho – recipient of “2020 ACM A.M. Turing Award”

6. On April 9, Dutee Chand, the Jakarta Asian Games silver-medalist in 100 and 200 metres will receive “Chhattisgarh Veerni Award”. In 2019, the Odisha sprinter became the first Indian woman to win gold medal at the World University Games held in Italy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dutee Chand ([Odisha](#)) – will receive “Chhattisgarh Veerni Award”
- [Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey](#)

7. ‘Nomadland’ directed by Chloe Zhao was the big winner at the 74th British Academy for Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards held at Royal Albert Hall winning 4 trophies - Best Film, Best Director, Best Leading Actress and Best Cinematograph. The other awards were as given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Nomadland’ (directed by Chloe Zhao) – won 4 trophies at the 74th BAFTA awards
- Best Film – ‘Nomadland’
- Best Director – Chloe Zhao
- Best Actor – Anthony Hopkins
- Best Actress – Frances McDormand

8. Union Minister of Education Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has presented the “AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020” on women empowerment to the winners in New Delhi. AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) annually institutes “Lilavati Awards 2020”. This year, the theme of the awards is “Women Empowerment”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AICTE – annually institutes “Lilavati Awards 2020”
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' presented the “AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020” in 6 different categories:

Category	Winner
Legal Awareness	Thiagarajar Polytechnic College (Tamil Nadu)
Self Defence	St. Joseph’s College of Engineering (Tamil Nadu)
Sanitation & Hygiene	Smt. Kishoritai Bhoyar College of Pharmacy (Maharashtra)
Women Health	Walchand Institute of Technology (Maharashtra)
Women Entrepreneurship	Sona College of Technology (Tamil Nadu)
Literacy	Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship Development (Pune)

9. On April 10, Eminent agricultural scientist M. S. Swaminathan was felicitated by REACH for his contribution towards eradication of Tuberculosis. REACH is a Chennai-based non-profit organisation working towards eradicating TB for over 2 decades. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. S. Swaminathan – felicitated by REACH for his contribution towards eradication of “Tuberculosis”
- [Location of REACH – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#)

10. On April 11, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has honoured Indian-origin businessman Yusuffali MA and 11 other individuals with Abu Dhabi's top civilian award for their noble and charitable contributions to the community. Yusuff Ali MA is the Chairman and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yusuff Ali MA – honoured with Abu Dhabi's Top Civilian Award
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

11. On April 12, Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has bagged the first place for Innovative Training Practices 2019-20 at the 30th National Award ceremony held recently at New Delhi by Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – bagged the first place for “Innovative Training Practices 2019-20” at the 30th National Award – by ISTD
- [HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt](#)

12. On April 12, Filmmaker Guneet Monga is to be conferred with the “Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters), which is the second-highest French civilian honour. Monga is a BAFTA nominee and one of the first Indian producers inducted to be in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guneet Monga – conferred with the “Knight of the Order of Arts & Letters” (2nd highest French civilian honour)

13. The Spanish city of Seville will host the 22nd Laureus World Sports Awards on May 6 in a virtual ceremony owing to the raging COVID-19 pandemic. The last was in Barcelona in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Seville ([Spain](#)) – to host the 22nd Laureus World Sports Awards
- The last was in Barcelona in 2007
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

14. On April 15, Birla Cellulose, part of the Aditya Birla Group that produces manmade cellulosic fibre (MMCF), has emerged as a winner in the first edition of the “National Innovative and Sustainable Supply Chain Awards” by UN Global Compact Network India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Birla Cellulose – won the first edition of “National Innovative and Sustainable Supply Chain Awards”
- [HQs of Birla Cellulose – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#)

15. On April 15, Virat Kohli was named Wisden Almanack's “ODI player of the 2010s”, while England all-rounder Ben Stokes was declared the “Cricketer of the Year” for a second successive time by the highly-rated annual publication. Other cricketers were also named as given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – named “ODI player of the 2010s” or “Cricketer of the decade for 2010s” by Wisden Almanack
- Ben Stokes (England) – named “Cricketer of the Year” or “Wisden's leading cricketer” (men)

- Beth Mooney (Australia) – named “Wisden's leading cricketer” (women)
- Sachin Tendulkar – named “ODI Cricketer of the 1990s”
- Kieron Pollard (West Indies) – named “Leading T20 Cricketer in the World”

16. On April 12, Marathi film Puglya has won the best foreign language feature at the Moscow International Film Festival 2021. The film is directed by Vinod Sam Peter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Puglya” a Marathi film – won the best Foreign Language Feature at the “Moscow International Film Festival 2021”
- Director – Vinod Sam Peter

17. On April 20, Argentina, Brazil, Uganda and Vanuatu were announced as the Global Winners of the ICC Development Awards for 2020. The awards were given as given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Global Winners of the ICC Development Awards for 2020:

Category	Winner
100% Cricket Female Cricket Initiative of the Year	Brazil
ICC Development Initiative of the Year	Argentina
ICC Digital Fan Engagement of the Year	Vanuatu
Cricket 4 Good Social Impact Initiative of the Year	Uganda

18. On April 22, The ‘Life is Beautiful’ filmmaker & Oscar-winning Italian director-actor Roberto Benigni has been honoured with the “Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement” of the 78th Venice International Film Festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Roberto Benigni ([Italy](#)) – received “Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement” – at 78th Venice Int. Film Festival
- [Italy](#) – [Rome](#) – [Euro](#) | [President](#) – [Sergio Mattarella](#) | [PM](#) – [Mario Draghi](#)

19. On April 22, Software-engineer turned social entrepreneur, Rumana Sinha Sehgal has been awarded the prestigious “Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021” by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rumana Sinha Sehgal ([Hyderabad](#)) – awarded “Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021”

20. On April 22, Vibha Harish, a 25-year old entrepreneur from Bengaluru, has featured in the “Forbes Asia’s 30 Under-30 2021” list. Her firm Cosmix, a herbal nutrition and plant-based supplement brand offering, is now one of the fastest-growing ventures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vibha Harish ([Bengaluru](#)) – featured in the “Forbes Asia’s 30 Under-30 2021”

21. On April 19, Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul was awarded a top European rights prize called “Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize” (8th edition) in recognition of her fight for women’s rights in the kingdom. It is awarded annually for civil society action in defence of human rights by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Loujain al-Hathloul ([Saudi Arabia](#)) – awarded a top European rights prize called “Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize”
- It is awarded annually by – PACE (HQs – [Strasbourg, France](#))
- [Saudi Arabia – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal](#) | [Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman](#)

22. On April 26, The Uttar Pradesh government has won the “E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021” ranking first in Category I. UP was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh at the second position, while Odisha and Tamil Nadu stood third. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – won the 1st prize in “E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021” under ‘Category I’
- 2nd spot – Assam & Chhattisgarh | 3rd – Odisha & Tamil Nadu
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

23. On April 26, Chloe Zhao’s “Nomadland” has won the Best Picture at 93rd Academy Awards, where the China-born Zhao became the first woman of color to win Best Director. Other awards were given as given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars):

Category	Winner
Best Picture	‘Nomadland’
Best Director	Chloe Zhao (for ‘Nomadland’)
Best Actor	Anthony Hopkins (for ‘The Father’)
Best Actress	Frances McDormand (for ‘Nomadland’)
Best Animated Feature Film	‘Soul’
Best International Feature Film	‘Another Round’ (Denmark)
Best Documentary Film	‘My Octopus Teacher’

24. On April 27, Dr Krithi K. Karanth, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 “WILD Innovator Award”. This award is given by the “WILD ELEMENTS Foundation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Krithi K. Karanth – chosen as the 1st Indian & Asian woman for “WILD Innovator Award - 2021”
- [Location of Centre for Wildlife Studies – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#)

Appointments & Resignations

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the tenure of J&K Bank Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) R K Chhibber by another 6 months from April 10, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R K Chhibber – tenure extended for 6 months as MD & Chairman of – J&K Bank
- [HQs of J&K Bank – Sri Nagar, J & K | MD & Chairman – R K Chhibber](#)

2. On April 1, Subhash Kumar, Director (Finance) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has assumed additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) upon the superannuation of incumbent CMD Shashi Shanker. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Subhash Kumar – assumed additional charge as Chairman & MD of ONGC
- [HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Subhash Kumar \(additional charge\)](#)

3. On April 1, The Board of Britannia Industries has appointed former Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel as the company's Additional Director in the category of Non-Executive and Independent Director for a 5-year period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Urjit Patel – appointed as Additional Director of Britannia Industries
- [HQs of Britannia Industries – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Berry](#)

4. On April 1, Mukhmeet S. Bhatia has assumed charge as Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Bhatia is an IAS officer of 1990 batch of Jharkhand cadre. Earlier, he has worked as Additional Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mukhmeet S. Bhatia – assumed charge as Director General of ESIC
- [HQs of ESIC – New Delhi | Director General – Mukhmeet S. Bhatia](#)

5. On April 1, Slovakia President Zuzana Caputova has appointed the new cabinet led by Prime Minister Eduard Heger two days after the previous government of Igor Matovic resigned. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eduard Heger – swore in as new Prime Minister of Slovakia
- [Slovakia – Bratislava – Euro | President – Zuzana Caputova | PM – Eduard Heger](#)

6. On April 1, Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd, has been appointed as Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). Mallika Srinivasan will hold office for 3 years from the date of assumption of charge or until she turns 65. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mallika Srinivasan – appointed as Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)
- [HQs of PESB – New Delhi | Chairperson – Mallika Srinivasan](#)



7. On April 1, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh has taken over as the Chief of Staff (CoS) of the Western Command. The command's area of responsibility covers Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and parts of Jammu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manjinder Singh – took over as the Chief of Staff (CoS) of the Western Command
- HQs of Western Command – Chandi Mandir, Haryana | CoS – Lieu. Gen. Manjinder Singh

8. On April 5, Chintan Vaishnav has been appointed as new Mission Director for Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). He will be replacing Ramanathan Ramanan to take over as the second Mission Director of AIM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chintan Vaishnav – appointed as new Mission Director for Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

9. On April 5, Pham Minh Chinh, a member of the Communist party, is appointed as Vietnam's next Prime Minister. Outgoing PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc was appointed the new President. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pham Minh Chinh – appointed as new Prime Minister of Vietnam
- Nguyen Xuan Phuc – appointed as new President of Vietnam
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

10. On April 5, Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu was elected as post-war Kosovo's 7th President and its 2nd female one for a 5-year term. She has replaced Hashim Thaci. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu – appointed as 7th President (2nd female) of Kosovo – for a 5-year term
- Kosovo – Pristina – Euro | President – Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu

11. On April 3, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor B. P. Kanungo has stepped down on 2 April after completing his term, cutting short all expectations of an extension of his tenure. Kanungo was appointed deputy governor in 2017 for 3 years. His term was extended by one year in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B. P. Kanungo – stepped down from of the post of Deputy Governor of RBI (appointed in 2017 for 3 years)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

12. On April 2, Former Gujarat DGP Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala has taken over from Ajit Singh as the head of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit. Ajit Singh, a former DGP of Rajasthan, had joined in April 2018 and his term ended on March 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shabir Hussein Shekhadam Khandwawala – appointed as the chief of BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit

13. On April 4, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana as Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24. CJI Sharad A. Bobde had recommended Justice Ramana, the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court, for appointment as the 48th Chief Justice of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justice N. V. Ramana – appointed as 48th Chief Justice of India – by President Ram Nath Kovind
- [President appoints Chief Justice of India – under Article 124](#)

14. On April 6, The government has appointed S. Ramann as Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a period of 3 years. Ramann, a 1991-batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service officer, is currently the CEO of National E-Governance Services Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Ramann – appointed as Chairman and MD of SIDBI for a period of 3 years
- [HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – S. Ramann | Established in – 1990](#)

15. On April 6, The Union Government has approved the appointment of Tarun Bajaj as new Revenue Secretary under the Ministry of Finance. The appointment committee of the cabinet has also approved the appointment of Ajay Seth as new secretary for Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tarun Bajaj – appointed as Revenue Secretary
- Ajay Seth – appointed as Secretary for Department of Economic Affairs

16. On April 7, Niger's newly-elected President Mohamed Bazoum has appointed Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou as Prime Minister. Mahamadou had also served as Niger's mines and energy minister and as finance minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou – appointed as Prime Minister of Niger
- [Niger – Niamey – West African CFA franc | President – Mohamed Bazoum | PM – Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou](#)

17. On April 7, Vivo has announced Virat Kohli, the sports icon, as the Brand Ambassador. With the association, vivo aims to reach the millennials and technologically driven consumers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – appointed as brand ambassador of Vivo
- [HQs of Vivo – Dongguan, China | CEO – Shen Wei](#)

18. On April 5, The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has appointed Poonam Gupta as its new Director General, effective from July 1. She will succeed Shekhar Shah to become the 1st woman to hold this post. Currently, she is the lead Economist at the World Bank in Washington DC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Poonam Gupta – appointed as Director General of NCAER (effective from July 1)
- Currently, she is the lead Economist at the World Bank
- [HQs of NCAER – New Delhi | DG – Shekhar Shah \(Poonam Gupta - from July 1\) | Established in – 1956](#)

19. On April 11, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has appointed Sonu Sood as the Brand Ambassador of the state's Covid vaccination programme. On the occasion, Sonu presented to the chief minister his book 'I am no Messiah'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sonu Sood – appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Punjab's Covid vaccination programme
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

20. Pramerica Life Insurance has announced the appointment of Kalpana Sampat as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, effective April 9. Earlier, she was COO of the company. Pramerica Life Insurance is a joint venture company of Prudential International Insurance Holdings and DHFL Investments Limited (DIL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kalpana Sampat – appointed as MD & CEO of – Pramerica Life Insurance
- Prudential International Insurance + DHFL Investments = Pramerica Life Insurance
- HQs of Pramerica Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Kalpana Sampat

21. SportzXchange, one of the newest and fastest-growing addition to the fantasy sports landscape in India, has roped in Prithvi Shaw as its Brand Ambassador. SportzXchange will create engaging content featuring Prithvi Shaw as part of an integrating campaign with a theme "Yahaan Hai Kuch Xtra". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prithvi Shaw – appointed as Brand Ambassador of SportzXchange

22. On April 10, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has extended the tenure of Arun Kumar, Chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) by 6 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arun Kumar – tenure extended for 6 months – as Chief or DG of the DGCA
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General – Arun Kumar

23. On April 12, Conservative Guillermo Lasso won Ecuador's presidential election on April 11. Guillermo Lasso will take over from beleaguered Lenin Moreno on May 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guillermo Lasso – elected as the President of Ecuador
- Ecuador – Quito – US Dollar | President – Guillermo Lasso

24. President Ram Nath Kovind, under the provisions of Article 324, has appointed Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra to take over as Chief Election Commissioner from Sunil Arora, whose tenure ended on April 12. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sushil Chandra – appointed as Chief Election Commissioner (by replacing - Sunil Arora)
- He is appointed by the President under the provisions of Article 324

25. On April 13, Elista, a brand backed by the prestigious TeknoDome Group has announced the ace cricketer Suresh Raina as its Brand Ambassador. The cricketer will be seen endorsing the brand's LED TVs and Coolers for all its campaigns. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suresh Raina – has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Elista
- Parent company of Elista – TeknoDome
- Global HQs of TeknoDome – Dubai, UAE | Indian HQs of TeknoDome – Noida, Uttar Pradesh

26. On April 14, President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise has appointed Claude Joseph as the new Prime Minister (PM) of Haiti after the resignation of Joseph Jouthe. Currently, he was serving as minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Claude Joseph – appointed as new Prime Minister of “Haiti” (by replacing - Joseph Jouthe)
- Haiti – Port-au-Prince – Haitian gourde | President – Jovenel Moise | PM – Claude Joseph

27. On April 15, Smartphone brand Tecno has roped in Ayushmann Khurrana as its Brand Ambassador for 2021. The actor will be seen spearheading the new brand campaign across Tecno’s product lines Spark, Camon and Pova. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ayushmann Khurrana – appointed as Brand Ambassador of ‘Tecno’
- HQs of Tecno – Shenzhen, China | Founder & CEO – George Zho

28. On April 17, DCB Bank has received the approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the re-appointment of Murali M. Natrajan as the Managing Director & CEO, for further period of 1 year from April 29, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Murali M. Natrajan – to be re-appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank
- HQs of DCB bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Murali M Natrajan
- DCB bank – the 1st bank to start Aadhaar-based ATM service (in 2016)

29. On April 17, K. Madhavan has been appointed as the President of The Walt Disney Company India and Star India, with immediate effect. He will be driving the strategy and growth of Disney, Star and Hotstar businesses and operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Madhavan – appointed as the President of – The Walt Disney Company India and Star India
- HQs of The Walt Disney Company India – Mumbai, MH | President – K. Madhavan

30. On April 10, In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Senior Justice Sanjay Yadav as acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court. He will take charge from April 14 after Chief Justice Govind Mathur retirement. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind – appointed Justice Sanjay Yadav as acting Chief Justice of “Allahabad High Court”
- The President of India appoints a Chief Justice of State High Court – under Article 223 of Constitution of India

31. On April 19, The ruling Movement for Democracy (MpD) party under Ulisses Correia e Silva has won the Parliamentary Election, a second 5-year term as Prime Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The ruling party under PM Ulisses Correia e Silva – won the Parliamentary Election of Cape Verde
- [Cape Verde – Praia – Cape Verdean Escudo](#) | [President – Jorge Carlos Fonseca](#) | [PM – Ulisses Correia e Silva](#)

32. On April 19, South Korean President Moon Jae-in has nominated interior minister Kim Boo-kyum as the new Prime Minister of the country. Apart from the Prime Minister, the president also nominated new land, labor, industry, science and oceans ministers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kim Boo-kyum – appointed as the Prime Minister of South Korea
- [South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won](#) | [President – Moon Jae-in](#) | [PM – Kim Boo-kyum](#)

33. On April 20, Global sports brand, Puma has signed a long-term partnership deal with cricketers Washington Sundar and Devdutt Padikkal as brand ambassadors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Washington Sundar + Devdutt Padikkal ([Cricketers](#)) = appointed as Brand Ambassadors of “Puma India”
- [HQs of Puma India – Bangalore, Karnataka](#) | [Executive Director – Abhishek](#)
- [HQs of Puma – Herzogenaurach, Germany](#) | [CEO – Bjorn Gulden](#)

34. Siddharth Singh Longjam will take over as the National Anti-Doping Agency's Director General, succeeding Navin Agarwal. Siddharth is currently serving as joint secretary in the sports ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Siddharth Singh Longjam – to take over as the Director General of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)
- [HQs of NADA – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Navin Agarwal](#) | [Motto – Play Fair](#) | [Founded in – 2005](#)

35. On April 23, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, has been appointed as External Auditor of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Hague for a 3-year term starting this year. In the past also, CAG has held the position of External Auditor of OPCW during the period from 1997 to 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Girish Chandra Murmu – appointed as External Auditor of the OPCW for 3 years
- [HQs of OPCW – Hague, Netherlands](#) | [Director General – Fernando Arias](#) | [External Auditor – GC Murmu](#)

36. On April 22, The RBI has approved appointment of former Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for 3 years effective from May 5, 2021. He is a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – approved appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as the part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank – for 3 years
- [HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”](#)

37. On April 22, NASSCOM has appointed Rekha M. Menon (Chairperson & senior MD at Accenture in India) as its Chairperson for 2021-22. With this, she becomes the first woman to take on the role of chairperson for NASSCOM in its 30-year history. She succeeds U. B. Pravin Rao. NASSCOM also announced the appointment of Krishnan Ramanujam as their vice chairperson for 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rekha M. Menon – appointed as Chairperson of NASSCOM (1st woman Chairperson)
- Krishnan Ramanujam – appointed as Vice Chairperson of NASSCOM
- [HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh](#)
- [Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam](#)

38. On April 19, Tata Consumer Products (TCP) has announced the appointment of Deepika Bhan as the company's new President for packaged foods in India, effective from 27 April. She takes over from Richa Arora. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Bhan – appointed as the new President of Tata Consumer Products (TCP)
- [HQs of TCP – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Sunil A. D'Souza](#)

39. On April 25, Armenia's Prime Minister 'Nikol Pashinyan' has resigned to enable snap election. He will continue to act as the the country's leader until the election. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nikol Pashinyan – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Armenia
- [Armenia – Yerevan – Dram](#)

40. On April 26, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given approval to the appointment of Arun Raste as MD and CEO of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) for a period of 5 years. He is currently associated with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) as an Executive Director. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arun Raste – appointed as MD & CEO of NCDEX – for a period of 5 years
- [HQs of NCDEX – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vijay Kumar Venkataraman](#)

41. Justice Rajesh Bindal was appointed as acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. The appointment of Justice Bindal comes into effect from Thursday as Chief Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan demits office on April 28. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajesh Bindal – appointed as acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court
- The President of India appoints a Chief Justice of State High Court – under Article 223 of Indian Constitution

42. On April 27, The Japanese sports brand ASICS has appointed Ravindra Jadeja, the leading all-rounder of the Indian cricket team and Chennai Super Kings as its Brand Ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASICS – appointed Ravindra Jadeja as its Brand Ambassador
- HQs of ASICS – Hyogo, Japan | CEO – Motoi Oyama

43. On April 24, Ministry of Finance has appointed Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth as the Non-Official Director of the Central Board of the RBI. He replaces Tarun Bajaj. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Seth – appointed as Non-Official Director of the Central Board of the RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

44. On April 27, Cuba's Communist Party has announced Miguel Diaz-Canel will succeed Raul Castro as the party's first secretary. Miguel was named as the 1st secretary of the Central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Miguel Diaz-Canel – appointed as the 1st Secretary of the Central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba
- Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Díaz-Canel

45. On April 26, Amit Banerjee has been appointed as the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited. Currently, he is serving as Director (Rail & Metro Business) in the same organisation. He has replaced MV Rajasekhar who was given additional charge for this post after the superannuation of Deepak Kumar Hota in January. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Banerjee – appointed as the next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of BEML Limited
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Amit Banerjee

46. On April 28, Albert Pahimi Padacke has been named as Prime Minister of Chad. He was runner-up in the Sahel country's April 11 presidential election. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Albert Pahimi Padacke – named as Prime Minister of Chad
- Chad – N'Djamena – CFA franc | PM – Albert Pahimi Padacke



47. On April 29, Axis Bank has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as its Managing Director and CEO for 3 years with effect from January 1, 2022. Prior to joining Axis Bank, Chaudhry was MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amitabh Chaudhry – re-appointed as MD & CEO of Axis Bank – for 3 years
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

48. On April 29, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved designating Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan as the Finance Secretary. Somanathan, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, will take charge as the Finance Secretary, a position earlier held by Ajay Bhushan Pandey who superannuated in February. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- T V Somanathan (Expenditure Secretary) – appointed as Finance Secretary

49. Prominent Indian-American civil rights lawyer Vanita Gupta has been appointed by the US Senate as Associate Attorney General, making her the first person of colour to occupy the third highest position at the Department of Justice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vanita Gupta (Indian-American) – appointed as Associate Attorney General of the US (1st person of colour)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

50. April 29, Bajaj Auto has announced the appointment of Neeraj Bajaj as its new Chairman of the Board with effect from May 1, 2021. He has succeeded Rahul Bajaj with effect from 1st May 2021. Bajaj Auto has also announced Rahul Bajaj as its Chairman Emeritus for 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Bajaj – appointed as new Chairman of Bajaj Auto (by succeeding - Rahul Bajaj)
- Rahul Bajaj – appointed as Chairman Emeritus of Bajaj Auto
- HQs of Bajaj Auto – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajiv Bajaj | Chairman – Neeraj Bajaj

51. On April 28, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) based in New York, US. She is among the 52 members on the board and will serve for a term of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw – appointed to the Board of Trustees of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK)
- Location of MSK Cancer Center – New York, US



Amount & Agreements

1. The New Development Bank (NDB) has approved a loan of up to \$1 billion to support healthcare workers treating patients for COVID-19 in Russia, during the 6th Annual meeting of the Board of Governors of NDB. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB – approved a loan of up to \$1 billion to support healthcare workers treating patients for COVID-19 – in Russia
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo
- NDB established by – BRICS Countries – in 2014
- BRICS Countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

2. India and Japan have signed 4 agreements under which Tokyo is to support health care projects funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) scheme in India. The total amount to be disbursed for the four projects is around 29.30 million Yen (\$ 265,000). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = 4 agreements worth 29.30 million Yen (\$265,000) under the GGP scheme in India
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

3. On April 1, General Electric (GE) has signed a 22-year maintenance services agreement to provide maintenance services and digital solutions for the upcoming 718 Megawatt (MW) combined-cycle power plant at Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- General Electric – to provide maintenance services for 718 MW power plant – in Meghnaghat, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- HQs of GE – Massachusetts, US | CEO – H. Lawrence Culp Jr.

4. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed an agreement with India to provide loan of Japanese Yen 52,036 million (₹3,717 Cr) for the development of Phase 2 of 'R6, 2A and 2B' of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JICA + India = an agreement worth Yen 52,036 million (₹3,717 Cr) – to develop Phase 2 of Bangalore Metro Rail
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

5. The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have approved loan for \$300 million (about Rs 2,190 Cr) canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab. The project is aimed at ensuring quality drinking water and minimise water losses for Amritsar and Ludhiana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank + AIIB = approved loan for \$300 million (Rs 2,190 Cr) canal-based drinking water projects in Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Lique
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

6. The National Investment & Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIFL) has announced an investment of ₹2,100 Cr in Manipal Hospitals through its Strategic Opportunities Fund. This investment marks the fund's first investment in the Indian healthcare sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIIFL – announced an investment of ₹2,100 Cr in Manipal Hospitals through its Strategic Opportunities Fund
- HQs of NIIFL – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Sujoy Bose | Founded in – 2015
- Manipal Hospitals based in – Bengaluru, Karnataka

7. On April 1, The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$32 million project titled “Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project” to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – approved a \$32 million project to improve Health Services in Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

8. On April 2, India has contributed \$300,000 to the United Nations agency for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (UN Women), as confirmed by India’s Permanent Secretary to the UN, T. S. Tirumurti. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India contributed \$300,000 to UN Women
- India’s Permanent Secretary to the UN – T. S. Tirumurti
- HQs of UN Women – New York, USA | Executive Director – Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

9. With the aim of strengthening road infrastructure in the Terai region of Nepal, India has provided Nepali Rs 800 Cr of grant assistance under an MoU. The project has been implemented under the ‘Government of India funding and Government of Nepal implementation’ modality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India provided NRs 800 Cr of grant assistance to strengthen Road Infrastructure – in Terai region, Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

10. On April 1, Airtel Africa has announced that Mastercard would invest \$100 million (about ₹733 Cr) in its wholly-owned subsidiary Airtel Mobile Commerce BV (AMC BV). The latest deal values Airtel Africa’s mobile money business at \$2.65 billion on a cash and debt-free basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard – to invest \$100 million (about ₹733 Cr) in Airtel Mobile Commerce BV (AMC BV)
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

11. On April 5, Dutch development bank FMO will invest \$137 million (about ₹1,000 Cr) in India's Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), managed by EverSource Capital, while the fund aims to raise a total of \$940 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FMO – will invest \$137 million (about ₹1,000 Cr) in India's Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)
- GGEF is managed by – EverSource Capital ([Mumbai](#)) | GGEF aims to raise a total of \$940 million
- [HQs of FMO – The Hague, Netherlands](#) | [CEO – Peter van Mierlo](#)

12. On April 9, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$484-million loan to improve transport connectivity and road maintenance in the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu. The project will upgrade about 590 km of state highways in the CKIC influence areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$484-million loan to improve transport connectivity in the Chennai-Kanyakumari IC – in TN
- [H Qs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | [President – Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | [Member countries – 68](#)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami](#) | [Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

13. On April 8, India has contributed an additional \$500,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism. With this amount, India's total contribution to it so far is \$1.05 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India contributed an additional \$500,000 to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism

14. On April 9, A team of scientists from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has spotted and photographed Three-banded Rosefinch - a bird in Arunachal Pradesh at an altitude higher than its recorded perch in adjoining China. It has become the 1,340th species of the bird family in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Three-banded Rosefinch” (a bird) – spotted in Arunachal Pradesh – by the scientists from BNHS
- It has become the 1,340th species of the bird family in India
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar](#) | [CM – Pema Khandu](#) | [Governor – B D Mishra](#)

15. On April 13, Deutsche Bank has signed a pact with National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for granting a loan of Rs 600 Cr. The NCDC also signed an MoU with Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for industry participation in farm and cooperative sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deutsche Bank + NCDC = a pact to grant a loan of Rs 600 Cr to NCDC
- [HQs of Deutsche Bank – Frankfurt, Germany](#) | [CEO – Christian Sewing](#) | [President – Karl von Rohr](#)
- [HQs of Deutsche Bank AG, India – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#)
- [HQs of NCDC – New Delhi](#) | [MD – Sundeep Kumar Nayak](#)

16. India has extended NRs 42.95 million (Rs 26.98 million) grant assistance to Nepal for a new building of a secondary school in Udayapur district of Nepal. The project will be taken up as a High Impact Community Development Project (HICDPs) at an estimated cost of NRs 42.95 million under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership programme. Nepal also inaugurated 10 Roads which were built with Indian grant assistance. The roads, Postal Highway are also called ‘Hulaki Rajmarg’. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India – extended NRs 42.95 million (Rs 26.98 million) grant to Nepal for new school building – in Udayapur, Nepal
- Nepal – also inaugurated 10 Roads built with Indian grant assistance
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

17. On April 15, Amazon India has launched \$250 million “Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund” to invest in startups and entrepreneurs. It focuses on technology innovations in SMB (small and medium business) digitization, agriculture and healthcare. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon India – launched \$250 million “Amazon Smbhav Venture Fund”
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

18. On April 20, As India and Australia increase engagement under Indo-Pacific vision, Canberra has announced AUD 1.4 million (Rs 81.2 million) grant under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). IPOI was proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the East Asia Summit in November 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia announced a grant assistance of AUD 1.4 million (Rs 81.2 million) under Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative
- IPOI was launched in 2019
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

19. On April 20, Heads of States and Heads of Governments, senior officials and other stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region are set to take stock of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and scale-up regional cooperation in response to the pandemic, according to the report titled “Beyond the pandemic: building back better from crises in Asia and the Pacific” released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Beyond the pandemic: building back better from crises in Asia and the Pacific” – released by UNESCAP
- HQs of UNESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary – Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

20. On April 21, India has ranked 142 among 180 countries in the “World Press Freedom Index 2021” published by the Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The index is topped by Norway followed by Finland and Denmark, while Eritrea is at the bottom. China is ranked 177. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Press Freedom Index 2021” – published by the Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- India – 142nd | 1st – Norway, 2nd – Finland, 3rd – Denmark | Bottom – Eritrea

21. On April 20, Less than 4% of Indian farmers have adopted Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Systems, according to a study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) supported by the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU). Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has achieved a coverage area of 5 million ha after decades of sustained promotion. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Less than 4% of Indian farmers adopted Sustainable Agricultural Practices & Systems – According to CEEW
- [HQs of CEEW – New Delhi | Head – Arunabha Ghosh](#)

22. On April 22, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Tamil Nadu is the only Indian university to make it in the world's top 100 Educational Institutions doing the most in the fight towards sustainability, according to the 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. The university is ranked 81st in the overall ranking. The UK's University of Manchester has stood at the top spot overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3rd edition of Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking: topped by University of Manchester ([UK](#))
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham ([TN](#)) – the only Indian university in the world's top 100 Educational Institutions (81st)

23. On April 21, India has been ranked at the 87th position among 115 countries in the Energy Transition Index (ETI) that tracks nations on the current performance of their energy systems across various aspects, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report. The report was prepared in collaboration with Accenture. Sweden has topped the Index, followed by Norway and Denmark. China stood at 68th position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Energy Transition Index (ETI)” – prepared by WEF + Accenture
- India – 87th | 1st – Sweden, 2nd – Norway, 3rd – Denmark

24. India's demographic advantage will overtake China's by 2035, according to the report released by People's Bank of China (PBoC). The report continued saying that since India's demographic advantage is expected to grow for at least the next 3 decades. Chinese economists have cautioned, China will experience a negative growth after 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's demographic advantage will overtake China's – by 2035
- China will experience a negative growth – after 2025
- [China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

25. On April 27, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a fiscal support of \$1.5 billion to India in support of the latter's pandemic response. This fiscal support of \$1.5 billion to India formed part of the \$16.1 billion that ADB had specifically set aside for pandemic response in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – provided a fiscal support of \$1.5 billion to India for pandemic response
- [HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68](#)

26. On April 27, In line with Budget announcement, the government has infused Rs 200 Cr in state-owned India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFC) to improve its financial health. Following the capital infusion, the government holding in the financial institution has increased to 63.8% from earlier 61.02%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government infused Rs 200 Cr in India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFC) to improve its Financial Health
- [HQs of IIFC – New Delhi | Chief General Manager – Rajeev Mukhija](#)

27. On April 29, Norway has announced a contribution of 20 million Norwegian Kroners (\$2.4 million or Rs 18 Cr) towards Covid relief in India, to be channelled through the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Norway – announced a contribution of NK 20 million (\$2.4 million or Rs 18 Cr) towards Covid relief in India
- [Norway – Oslo – Krone](#) | [PM – Erna Solberg](#)

28. On April 29, International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of World Bank is planning to invest \$40 million in UpGrad, bringing down the promoters' holding in the firm to 75%. Upgrad was founded by Ronnie Screwvala, Phalgun Kompalli, Mayank Kumar and Ravijot Chugh in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFC ([World Bank](#)) – plans to invest \$40 million in UpGrad (its total holding in UpGrad - 25%)
- [HQs of IFC – Washington D.C., US](#) | [MD – Makhtar Diop](#) | [Established in – 1956](#)
- [HQs of Upgrad – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Co-founder & MD – Mayank Kumar](#)



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. On April 1, India has slipped 28 places from 112th to 140th among 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's "Global Gender Gap Report 2021", becoming the third-worst performer in South Asia. India has closed 62.5% of its gender gap till date. For the 12th time, Iceland is the most gender-equal country in the world. Only Pakistan & Afghanistan are the countries from South Asian Region that were ranked behind India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Global Gender Gap Report 2021" – released by the WEF
- India (62.5%) – 140th out of 156 countries | Top – Iceland (followed by Finland & Norway)
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab | Founded in – 1971

2. The report by ACI Worldwide claimed India was ahead of China with 25.5 billion real-time payments transactions in 2020. The share of real-time payments volume in overall electronic transactions will exceed 50% in 2024. Digital payments will account for a 71.7% share of all the payments in India by 2025. In a nutshell, India has topped the list with most number of real-time transactions in Digital Payments in 2020 & Croatia was the fastest growing country for real-time payments based on CAGR 2020-25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – topped the list with most number of real-time transactions in Digital Payments in 2020 (25.5 billion)
- Croatia – fastest growing country for real-time payments based on CAGR 2020-25
- Croatia – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic

3. A report titled "Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples" is jointly published by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC). The FAO report is significant because it comes days after forest fires in Odisha's Similipal highlighted the importance of engaging local communities in the first line of action. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples" report – released by FAO & FILAC
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

4. The World Trade Organisation has revised upwards its prediction for Global Merchandise Trade Volume growth in 2021 to 8% compared to the 7.2% growth forecast in October 2020. India's two top export destinations, the US and the EU are likely to see import growth of 11.4% and 8% respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WTO's revised prediction for Global Merchandise Trade Volume growth in 2021 – 8%
- US & EU – expected to see import growth of 11.4% & 8% respectively
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Countries – 164

5. On April 6, After the U.S. and China, India has the 3rd highest number of billionaires (140) in the world followed by Germany with 136 and Russia with 117, according to the Forbes' 35th Annual world's Billionaires list. The list is topped by Amazon CEO and Founder Jeff Bezos for the fourth year in a row with net worth of \$177 billion. Jeff is followed by SpaceX founder Elon Musk with net worth of \$151 billion. Mukesh Ambani, the richest person in India and in Asia, is ranked 10 on the global billionaires' list with a net worth of \$84.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Forbes' 35th Annual world's Billionaires list: Top – Jeff Bezos (\$177 billion) | 2nd – Elon Musk (\$151 billion)
- Mukesh Ambani (richest person in India and in Asia) – ranked 10th in the Billionaires list (\$84.5 billion)
- India – has the 3rd highest number of billionaires (140) in the world (1st – US & 2nd – China)
- [HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey](#)

6. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc Bangalore) has secured the top position among the best higher education institutes in India, while Calcutta University became the best Varsity/University in India, as per the recently published “Academic Ranking of World Universities” (ARWU 2020) by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy. Calcutta University has also ranked 3rd among all higher education institutes in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Academic Ranking of World Universities” (ARWU 2020) – published by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy
- IISc Bangalore – top position among the best higher education institutes in India
- Calcutta University – the best Varsity/University in India (also ranked 3rd among all higher education institutes)

7. On April 13, With the completion of 91% target allotted under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Jammu and Kashmir clinched the 3rd spot while the Udhampur district has bagged top position among 30 districts across India for constructing roads of the maximum length of 560.49 km in 2020-21. Chhattisgarh has bagged the 1st place among all states/UTs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Udhampur (J&K) – bagged top position among districts across India for implementation of “PMGSY”
- Chhattisgarh – bagged top position among states/UTs across India for implementation of “PMGSY”
- PMGSY was launched in – 2000 (by the then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee)

8. On April 16, According to the recently released “Global Food Policy Report 2021” by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the impacts of rising poverty and reduced livelihoods are reflected clearly in rising levels of food insecurity and decreasing diet quality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Food Policy Report 2021” report – released by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- [HQs of IFPRI – Washington, D.C., USA | Director General – Johan F. M. Swinnen](#)

9. According to the “Henley Passport Index” released by Henley and Partners, Japan and Singapore have the strongest passports in the global ranking. Afghanistan and Iraq hold the bottom spots. India and Bangladesh stand at the 84th and 100th ranks, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Henley Passport Index” – released by Henley & Partners
- India – 84th | Top three – Japan, Singapore, Germany/South Korea | Bottom – Afghanistan

10. On April 15, India has ranked at 49th spot globally when it comes to Internet Inclusion and Gender Equality in accessing the world wide web, according to the “Inclusive Internet Index” released by a Facebook-Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). India is tied with Thailand in 49th place this year. India is set to reach one billion internet users by 2025. There were over 687.6 million internet users in India in 2020. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Inclusive Internet Index” – released by Facebook + EIU
- India – 49th | 1st – Sweden, 2nd – US, 3rd – Spain

11. On April 15, 45% of the women from 57 developing countries do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies, including using contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality, according to the United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) flagship State of World Population Report 2021 titled “My Body is My Own”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- State of World Population Report 2021 titled “My Body is My Own” – released by UNFPA
- Only 55% of women are fully empowered to make choices
- [HQs of UNFPA – New York, US | Executive Director – Natalia Kanem](#)

12. According to the National Housing Bank’s latest “Trend and Progress of Housing in India” report, the pace of growth of banks remained higher than that of HFCs. The market share of banks in individual housing loans has gone up to 67% in 2019-20, while market share of housing finance companies (HFCs) has come down to 33%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Trend and Progress of Housing in India” report – released by the National Housing Bank (NHB)
- The market share of banks in individual housing loans increased to 67% in 2019-20 (from 62% in 2017-18)
- The market share of HFCs decreased to 33% in 2019-20 (from 38% in 2017-18)
- [HQs of NHB – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Sriram Kalyanaraman](#)

13. On April 17, Department of Science & Technology (DST) Secretary Professor Ashutosh Sharma has released a report titled “Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework”, which identifies the most vulnerable states and districts in India with respect to current climate risk and key drivers of vulnerability. National climate vulnerability assessment has identified 8 Eastern States as highly vulnerable. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework” – by Dept of S&T
- The assessment identified 8 Eastern States as ‘Highly Vulnerable’

14. On April 20, Global energy-related Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions are on course to surge by 1.5 billion tonnes in 2021, the second-largest increase in history, according to “Global Energy Review 2021” released by International Energy Agency (IEA). The report estimates that CO₂ emissions will increase by almost 5% this year to 33 billion tonnes. The key driver is coal demand, which is set to grow by 4.5%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Energy Review 2021” – released by International Energy Agency (IEA)
- CO₂ emissions will increase by almost 5% (1.5 billion tonnes) this year to 33 billion tonnes
- [HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30](#)



15. On April 20, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released its annual “State of the Global Climate for 2020”. 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, despite a cooling La Niña event. The global average temperature was about 1.2° Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level. As per the report, the ‘Cyclone Amphan’ of 2020 has resulted in economic losses of \$14 billion in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of the Global Climate for 2020” report – released by World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- As per the report: Economic losses due to ‘Cyclone Amphan’ in India – \$14 billion
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

16. On April 22, As per the report titled “Gender Bias and Inclusion in Advertising in India” released by the UNICEF and the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media (GDI), women are more likely to be depicted as caretakers and parents than male characters and less likely to be shown in paid occupation. The research analysed over 1,000 television and YouTube advertisements aired across India in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Gender Bias & Inclusion in Advertising in India” released by = UNICEF + Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of Geena Davis Institute on GDI – Los Angeles, California, US | CEO – Madeline Di Nonno

17. On April 26, The richer countries in the Asia-Pacific region are likely to recover quickly from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic than their poorer counterparts, according to a joint report “Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving no Country Behind” by the ADB, UNDP and the UNESCAP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving no Country Behind” report – by ADB + UNDP + UNESCAP
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- HQs of UNESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary – Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

18. On April 28, The annual report “Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019” was released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In its report, the SIPRI has found that the world’s top military spenders the US, China and India saw their military spending go up compared to 2019. Global military spending has risen to 2.6% in 2020 despite pandemic. Last year, the US spent a total of \$778 billion, China spent \$252 billion and India’s military expenditure was \$72.9 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019” – released by SIPRI
- 1st – US (\$778 billion) | 2nd – China (\$252 billion) | 3rd – India (\$72.9 billion)
- Global military spending rose to – 2.6% in 2020
- HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden | Director – Dan Smith

19. On April 27, The World Health Organisation (WHO) along with UNICEF and the Vaccine Alliance GAVI, has unveiled a UN-led “Global Immunization Strategy” to reach more than 50 million children who have missed their vaccination against measles and other diseases because of COVID-19 disruption. The WHO has announced to achieve this by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO + UNICEF + GAVI = unveiled “Global Immunization Strategy” to reach over 50 million children – by 2030
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946
- HQs of GAVI – Geneva, Switzerland | CEO – Dr Seth Berkley

20. On April 23, According to the report of Bank of America (BofA), India needs over \$400 billion in capital investment to fight climate change. It could save over 100 GW of energy and 1.1 billion tonne of greenhouse gasses between 2015 and 2030. The government's push towards ‘Blending Ethanol’ up to 25% and move towards ‘Green Hydrogen’ are encouraging. The government has ramped up Ethanol Blending within Petrol ratio from 1.4% in 2014 to 5% in 2020, 10% by 2022 and to 25% by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to BofA: India needs over \$400 billion in capital investment to fight climate change
- BofA identified 2 new themes to fight Pollution: ‘Blending Ethanol’ up to 25% & ‘Green Hydrogen’
- Ethanol Blending within Petrol ratio: 5% in 2020 | 10% by 2022 | 25% by 2025

21. On April 26, India has been ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI), which classifies 104 countries in terms of government capabilities and outcomes. It was the 1st Edition produced by Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG). Finland has topped the list followed by Switzerland & Singapore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India ranked 49th in the Chandler Good Government Index (CGGI) | Topped by – Finland
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

22. On April 22, Air pollution in India has caused losses of up to Rs 7 lakh Cr (\$95 billion) annually according to a new report released jointly by UK-based non-profit Clean Air Fund, management firm Dalberg Advisors and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This loss is equal to 3% of India’s GDP in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Clean Air Fund (UK) + Dalberg Advisors (US) + CII = released a new report on Air Pollution
- Air pollution in India caused losses of up to – Rs 7 lakh Cr (\$95 billion) annually (3% of India’s 2019 GDP)
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

23. On April 28, Two Indian firms, Reliance Industries' technology arm Jio Platforms and e-learning startup Byju's have figured in the Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 most influential companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jio Platforms + Byju's = figured in the Time Magazine's first-ever list of 100 most influential companies
- HQs of Jio Platforms – Mumbai, MH | President – Anish Shah
- HQs of Byju’s – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011

24. On April 28, Wipro has regained the position as India's third most-valued information technology (IT) company, surpassing HCL Technologies in terms of market capitalisation (market-cap). Wipro stood at number 12 in the overall m-cap ranking with an m-cap of Rs 2.65 trillion. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is at number one position in IT companies market-cap rank with a market-cap of Rs 11.47 trillion, followed by Infosys (Rs 5.72 trillion). Wipro also announced to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro – regained the position as India's 3rd most-valued IT company (12 in overall) | m-cap of – Rs 2.65 trillion
- 1st – TCS (Rs 11.47 trillion) | 2nd – Infosys (Rs 5.72 trillion)
- Wipro: To achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040
- [HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte](#)

25. “The Global Forest Goals Report 2021” is prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN DESA). COVID-19 has increased the challenges for Countries to manage forests. UN Strategic Plan of 2017 for Forests targets to increase forest area by 3% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Global Forest Goals Report 2021” – prepared by the UNDESA
- UN Strategic Plan of 2017 for Forests targets to increase forest area by 3% by 2030
- [HQs of UNDESA – New York, USA | Head – Liu Zhenmin](#)

26. On April 30, More than 30% of new vehicle sales in India will be electric by 2030, according to the “Global EV Outlook” report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). By 2030 almost 60% of all 2/3-wheelers sold are electric, as are about 30% of LCVs and buses. There could be 145 million electric vehicles on the world’s roads by 2030. India outlays Rs 10,000 Cr for FAME II (Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles) scheme. The FAME Scheme was launched in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEA’s “Global EV Outlook” report: More than 30% of new vehicle sales in India will be electric by 2030
- There could be 145 million electric vehicles on the world’s roads by 2030
- India outlays Rs 10,000 Cr for FAME II | The FAME Scheme was launched – in 2015
- [HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30](#)

27. According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India’s crude oil production fell by 5% to 30.5 million tonnes and Natural Gas output slumped by 8% to 28.67 billion cubic meters in the fiscal year to March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s Crude Oil production fell by 5% to 30.5 million tonnes in FY21
- Natural Gas output fell by 8% to 28.67 billion cubic meters in FY21
- [Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel \(Madhya Pradesh\)](#)

Acquisitions & Mergers

1. Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) has acquired Warora-Kurnool Transmission Limited (WKTL) from Essel Infraprojects Limited for Rs 3,370 Cr. As per the agreement, WKTL will develop, operate, and maintain transmission lines aggregating to around 1,750 ckt km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Transmission – acquired Warora-Kurnool Transmission Ltd from Essel Infraprojects Ltd – for Rs 3,370 Cr
- [HQs of Adani Transmission – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Anil Kumar Sardana](#)

2. On April 2, Reliance Infrastructure has sold its erstwhile headquarters 'Reliance Centre' in Santacruz, Mumbai to Yes Bank for Rs 1,200 Cr. The action was taken by the bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFESI) Act after the company failed to pay Rs 2,892 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank – acquired the Rs 1200 Cr worth 'Reliance Centre' in Santacruz, Mumbai – for being failed to pay loans
- [HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”](#)
- [HQs of Reliance Infrastructure – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Punit Garg](#)

3. On April 5, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has acquired 25% stake of Vishwa Samudra Holdings in Krishnapatnam Port for Rs 2,800 Cr. This will result in APSEZ increasing its stake from 75% to 100% in Krishnapatnam Port. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APSEZ – acquired 25% stake (Rs 2,800 Cr) of Vishwa Samudra Holdings in Krishnapatnam Port
- Krishnapatnam Port – 100% owned by APSEZ (located in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh)
- [HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani](#)

4. Axis Bank has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement for sale of 100% stake in its subsidiary, Axis Bank UK Limited to OpenPayd Holdings Ltd. The sale is to be completed by September 30, 2021 subject to approval of 'Change in Control'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank – to sell 100% stake of its UK subsidiary – to OpenPayd Holdings Ltd
- [HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”](#)
- [HQs of OpenPayd Holdings Ltd – London, UK | Founder – Dr. Ozan Ozerk](#)

5. On April 6, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the 100% acquisition of Principal Asset Management Private Ltd, Principal Trustee Company Private Ltd and Principal Retirement Advisors Private Ltd by Sundaram Asset Management Company Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the 100% acquisition of PAMPL + PTCPL + PRAPL = by Sundaram Asset Management Company Ltd
- [HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003](#)
- [HQs of Sundaram Asset Management Company – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD – Sunil Subramaniam](#)

6. On April 6, Byju's is acquiring Aakash Educational Services Ltd (AESL) estimated at \$950 million. Byju's is also finalising the acquisition of Toppr, an online learning firm, for \$150 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Byju's is acquiring Aakash Educational Services Ltd (AESL) for \$950 million
- [HQs of Byju's – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011](#)

7. On April 8, Axis Bank and its subsidiaries, Axis Capital Ltd and Axis Securities Ltd (together Axis Entities), have completed acquisition of 12.99% stake in Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. The Axis Entities have a right to acquire an additional stake of up to 7% in Max Life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Entities – completed acquisition of 12.99% stake in Max Life Insurance
- [HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”](#)
- [HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy](#)

8. On April 5, Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) has acquired 9.9% stake in Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Ltd. Set up in November 2018, Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Ltd was promoted by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd – acquired 9.9% stake in Kerala Infrastructure Fund Management Ltd
- [HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | CEO – Keki Mistry](#)

9. On April 12, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 60% shareholding in Magma Fincorp Ltd by Rising Sun Holdings Private Ltd and Sanjay Chamria and Mayank Poddar. Rising Sun is part of Serum Institute of India (SII). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved the acquisition of 60% stake in Magma Fincorp Ltd – by Rising Sun Holdings Pvt Ltd
- Additional 4.68% stake – acquired by Sanjay Chamria & Mayank Poddar
- [HQs of Magma Fincorp Ltd – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO & MD – Manish Jaiswal](#)

10. On April 13, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones Ltd's (APSEZ) acquisition of 89.6% stake in Gangavaram Port Ltd under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. The port is located in the northern part of Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved APSEZ's acquisition of 89.6% stake in Gangavaram Port – under Section 31(1) of Competition Act, 2002
- [Gangavaram Port – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh](#)
- [HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003](#)
- [HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani](#)

11. On April 14, GE Power India has acquired 50% stake in NTPC GE Power Services Pvt Ltd for Rs 7.2 Cr. This investment and JV with NTPC Ltd is expected to strengthen company's portfolio and open avenues for expanded scope of business for future projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GE Power India – acquired 50% stake in NTPC GE Power Services Pvt Ltd – for Rs 7.2 Cr
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

12. On April 15, Nettle Infrastructure Investments, a wholly-owned arm of Bharti Airtel has acquired 100% stake in OneWeb India Communications Pvt Ltd for an undisclosed sum. OneWeb is a low earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator, co-owned by Bharti Global and the UK government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nettle Infrastructure Investments (Bharti Airtel) – acquired 100% stake in OneWeb India Communications
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

13. On April 21, Qess Corp, a business services platform has acquired the remaining 30% equity stake in Conneqt Business Solutions from Tata Sons for ₹208 Cr. Qess had acquired 51% of Conneqt in November 2017 and further increased its stake in Conneqt from 51% to 70% in May 2019 via infusion of primary capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Qess Corp – acquired the remaining 30% equity stake (₹208 Cr) in Conneqt Business Solutions – from Tata Sons
- HQs of Qess Corp – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Suraj Moraje
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

14. On April 13, Microsoft has acquired Nuance Communications, a cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) software firm, in an all-cash transaction valued at \$19.7 billion, including debt. This would be Microsoft's second-largest purchase after its 2016 acquisition of LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – acquired an AI software firm 'Nuance Communications' for \$19.7 billion
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of Nuance Communications – Massachusetts, US | CEO – Mark D. Benjamin

15. On April 19, The government of Ghana has signed an agreement to take over the 100% shares of 'AirtelTigo' from Bharti Airtel & Millicom International Cellular. Bharti Airtel is a global telecommunications company with operations in 18 countries across South Asia and Africa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ghana – to acquire 100% stake in AirtelTigo – from Bharti Airtel & Millicom International Cellular
- Ghana – Accra – Cedi | President – Nana Akufo-Addo



16. On April 16, Flipkart will acquire online travel firm Cleartrip valued at \$40 million. Cleartrip will, however, continue to operate as a separate brand and retain all its employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart – to acquire online travel firm ‘Cleartrip’ valued at \$40 million
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

17. The government will divest 20% stake in National Fertilizers (NFL) and 10% of its holding in Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCFL) through the offer for sale (OFS) route. It currently holds 75.71% stake in NFL and 75% stake in RCFL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will divest 20% stake in NFL & 10% stake in RCFL
- HQs of NFL – Noida, UP | MD & Chairman – Virendra Nath Datt
- HQs of RCFL – Mumbai, MH | MD & Chairman – R. G. Rajan

18. On April 21, DCB Bank has acquired 9% in Techfino Capital Private Limited (TCPL). Techfino, a NBFC headquartered in Bengaluru offers customised consumer loans in the education and healthcare sectors through its technology platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DCB Bank – acquired 9% in Techfino Capital Private Ltd (Bangalore)
- HQs of DCB bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Murali M Natrajan
- DCB bank – the 1st bank to start Aadhaar-based ATM service (in 2016)

19. On April 21, Tech Mahindra has acquired the entire stake in US-headquartered hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider DigitalOnUS for \$120 million. The acquisition will strengthen Tech Mahindra’s cloud-native development and hybrid cloud infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra – acquired the entire stake in DigitalOnUS for \$120 million
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani
- HQs of DigitalOnUS – San Jose, California, US

20. On April 29, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Tata Digital’s acquisition of 64.3% in stake in online grocer BigBasket. Tata Digital will now give exit to investors Alibaba, which holds around 29% stake in BigBasket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of 64.3% in stake in BigBasket – by Tata Digital
- HQs of BigBasket – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEOs – Hari Menon & VS Sudhakar
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. On April 4, Telangana has signed an MoU with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to aid cotton ryots in 2,800 villages. Cotton is the third largest crop cultivated in India after paddy and wheat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana + Wadhvani Institute for AI = to aid cotton ryots in 2,800 villages
- Cotton – 3rd largest crop cultivated in India | India – World's largest Cotton producer
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Location of Wadhvani Institute for AI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – P. Anandan

2. Spices Board India and UNDP India's Accelerator Lab have signed an MoU, with the aim to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices to enhance transparency in supply chain and trade. UNDP and Spices Board India are working towards integrating the Blockchain Traceability Interface with the "e-Spice Bazaar portal". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spices Board India + Accelerator Lab (UNDP) = an MoU to build a blockchain based traceability interface for Indian spices
- Spices Board India – functions under Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- HQs of Spices Board India – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – AG Thankappan
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

3. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS) have signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) to reinforce the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in India by developing a database of innovations in public systems for improving public services, amongst other things. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog (AIM) + CIPS = a Sol for innovations in public systems
- Location of CIPS – Hyderabad, Telangana
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

4. On April 6, Ladakh Administration, Leh Hill Council and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) have signed an MoU to set up 50-Mega Watt Solar Power Project at Taru in Leh district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh Administration + Leh Hill Council + SECI = an MoU to set up 50-Mega Watt solar power project – in Leh
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Praveen Kumar



5. On April 7, An MoU was signed between the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for research on new formulations in quality drugs for veterinary science through medicinal herbs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMPB (AYUSH Ministry) + Dept of Animal Husbandry & Dairying = for research on quality drugs for Veterinary Science
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa

6. On April 7, The Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between National Atmospheric Research Laboratory (NARL) and Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (RISH), Kyoto University, Japan for Academic and Research Cooperation and Exchange. This arrangement was formalised in 2008 through an MoU. The above MoU was renewed in the year 2013. A fresh MOU to promote collaborative research, as per the new guidelines, was signed in November 2020 by both sides and exchanged. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NARL (Andhra Pradesh) + RISH (Japan) = an MoU for Academic & Research Cooperation and Exchange
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

7. On April 6, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd has signed an MoU with Karnataka Bank to offer better finance schemes to customers. Under this collaboration, customers can avail loans up to 85% of the on-road price of all new cars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maruti Suzuki India + Karnataka Bank = an MoU to offer better finance schemes to customers
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki India – New Delhi | Chairman – R C Bhargava | MD & CEO – Kenichi Ayukawa
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S.

8. National Collateral Management Ltd (NCML) has signed an MoU with Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) for skill development in Agriculture Sector by bridging gaps & upgrading skills of farmers, wage workers, under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCML + ASCI = an MoU for skill development in Agriculture Sector

9. On April 7, Bharti Axa Life and Fincare Small Finance Bank have joined hands for a bancassurance partnership under which the bank will sell insurance policies to its customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Axa Life + Fincare SFB = bancassurance partnership
- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Parag Raja
- HQs of Fincare SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Rajeev Yadav

10. On April 7, MSME-focused digital lending platform FlexiLoans.com has partnered with PayPal to provide freelancers, women entrepreneurs, sole proprietors, and MSMEs collateral-free business loans . The partnership will enable borrowers to access term loans from ₹50,000 up to ₹1 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- FlexiLoans.com + PayPal = partnership to offer collateral-free loans to MSMEs, Women Entrepreneurs & Freelancers
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman
- HQs of FlexiLoans – Mumbai, MH | Co-Founder – Manish Lunia

11. BillDesk has announced a partnership with global financial institution J.P. Morgan to offer Online Payments Solutions to the bank's corporate clients in India. Through this partnership, J.P. Morgan's clients in India will be able to independently initiate statutory and utility payments online with more than 100 merchants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BillDesk + J.P. Morgan = to offer Online Payments Solutions to the bank's corporate clients
- HQs of BillDesk – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Co-Founder – Srinivasu MN

12. On April 12, Flipkart has entered into a strategic and commercial partnership with the Gujarat-based Adani Group for Logistics and Data Centre-related businesses. As per the deal, a new Fulfilment Centre spread across 5.34 lakh sq. ft. will be opened in Mumbai. In addition, Flipkart will set up its third data centre at AdaniConnex Private Limited, in Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + Adani Group = strategic and commercial partnership for Logistics & Data Centre-related businesses
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani

13. On April 12, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has partnered with Accenture to digitally transform the sales and distribution network of India's second largest Oil and Gas Company. Accenture will use its capabilities in data, artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud technologies to build, design and implement a digital platform, called IRIS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL + Accenture = partnership to digitally transform the sales and distribution network of BPCL
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar

14. On April 13, INOXCVA (INOX India Pvt. Ltd.) has signed an MoU with leading Japanese conglomerate Mitsui & Co. (Asia Pacific) Pte. Ltd. (Mitsui) for partnering by sharing technical and commercial expertise for further establishing a virtual pipeline to service the growing demand of LNG in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INOXCVA + Mitsui = an MoU to establish a virtual pipeline to service the growing demand of LNG in India
- HQs of INOXCVA – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Deepak Acharya
- HQs of Mitsui & Co. – Tokyo, Japan | CEO – Tatsuo Yasunaga

15. On April 13, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Embassy of Denmark in India have signed an agreement to jointly work towards promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among aspiring entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + Denmark = an agreement to promote Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Ramanan Ramanathan)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

16. On April 12, Global life science major Bayer has signed a statement of intent (Sol) for a strategic partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in healthcare & agriculture sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bayer + AIM = a statement of intent (Sol) to create & promote a culture of innovation in Healthcare & Agriculture
- HQs of Bayer – Leverkusen, Germany | CEO – Werner Baumann
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Ramanan Ramanathan)

17. On April 15, Oberoi Group has signed an MoU with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) to reduce its overall carbon footprint by implementing Clean Energy Efficiency Initiatives. Under the partnership, EESL, through its nationwide network, will collaborate with all Oberoi Group Hotels to evaluate opportunities for saving energy and lowering emissions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oberoi Group + EESL = an MoU to reduce its overall Carbon Footprint
- HQs of Oberoi Group – Delhi | CEO – Vikram S. Oberoi
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | MD – Rajat Sud | Chairman – Rajeev Sharma

18. On April 15, Union Agriculture Ministry has signed an MoU with Microsoft for a pilot project in 100 villages of 6 states to increase farmer's income. These states are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Microsoft will develop farmer interface for smart and well-organized agriculture, including post-harvest management and distribution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agriculture Ministry + Microsoft = an MoU for a pilot project in 100 villages of 6 states
- 6 states – UP, MP, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan & Andhra Pradesh
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare – Narendra Singh Tomar (Constituency – Morena, MP)
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975



19. On April 15, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has signed an agreement with Dassault Systemes Fondation to jointly work towards providing a digitally rich ecosystem of Innovation in India and promoting STEM based innovation and entrepreneurship among Youth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atal Innovation Mission + Dassault Systemes = an agreement for seeding future Innovators & Entrepreneurs
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Ramanan Ramanathan)
- HQs of Dassault Systemes - Velizy-Villacoublay, France | CEO – Bernard Charles

20. On April 15, Facebook has signed a deal to buy Renewable Energy in India from a local firm's wind power project. The 32 megawatt Wind Power Project, located in southern Karnataka state, is part of a larger portfolio of wind and solar projects that Facebook and Mumbai-based CleanMax are working together. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook – signed a deal to buy Renewable Energy in India from a local firm's wind power project
- Facebook + CleanMax (Mumbai) = working together on 32 MW Wind Power Project – in Karnataka
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

21. On April 15, SBI General Insurance and Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, one of the key Banks in North Bengal, have signed a Corporate Agency Agreement recently. Under this strategic tie-up agreement, SBI General Insurance will offer a comprehensive range of general insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI General Insurance + Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank = Corporate Agency Agreement
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal | Tagline – ‘Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono’

22. Ministry of Tourism signed an MoU with Cleartrip and Ease My Trip to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry especially in the times of the pandemic. The pact is aimed at providing extensive visibility to accommodation units which have self-certified themselves on “SAATHI” (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry) & “NIDHI” (National Integrated Database of Hospital Industry) Portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism + Cleartrip + Ease My Trip = an MoU to strengthen the Hospitality & Tourism Industry
- The companies need to self-certify themselves on – “SAATHI” & “NIDHI” portals

23. The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd has partnered with Gramcover, to collectively enhance rural insurance penetration. Under this MoU, Gramcover will focus on market analysis and identification of widely grown crops, as well as need-based rural insurance products. This collaboration aims to reach 25 million farmers in aspirational districts, through Gramcover’s products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agriculture Insurance Company of India + Gramcover = partnership to enhance rural insurance penetration
- HQs of AICI – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Malay Kumar Poddar
- HQs of Gramcover – Noida, UP | CEO – Dhyanesh Bhatt

24. Paytm has partnered with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for facilitating digital payment services to the customers of LIC. The new agreement requires an easy payment process, a broader range of payment options, and more players (wallets, banks, etc) in payment channels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC appointed Paytm to facilitate its Digital Payments
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar | Founded in – 2009

25. On April 11, The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India signed an agreement on Technical Cooperation titled 'Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment' at a virtual ceremony in New Delhi. 2021 marked 63 years of fruitful development cooperation between our two countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA + Germany = signed an agreement titled "Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment"
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

26. In its endeavour to facilitate various forms of investment Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) had entered into an MoU with the World Trade Center (WTC) on dated March 16, 2021 to promote and facilitate trade and investment in Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana + WTC = an MoU to promote and facilitate trade & investment in Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- HQs of WTC – New York, US

27. On April 20, IIT Kharagpur and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have signed an MoU towards greater collaboration in issues and areas related to the development of cooperatives, agriculture and allied sectors and to the holistic approach towards sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur + NCDC = an MoU to promote sustainable development in Agriculture & allied sectors
- HQs of NCDC – New Delhi | MD – Sundeep Kumar Nayak

28. On April 20, The Union Cabinet has given its ex post facto approval to the amendments to the Finance Bill, 2021. The Cabinet approved a Mutual Recognition Agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. The Cabinet also gave its nod to an MoU between India and Bangladesh to setup a framework of cooperation in the area of trade remedial measures. Besides, it also approved signing of an MoU between the Competition Commission of India (CCI) & the Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil (CADE), Brazil. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet gave approval to several key initiatives:
- A Mutual Recognition Agreement between the ICAI & Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand
- An MoU between India & Bangladesh to setup a framework of cooperation in the area of trade remedial measures
- An MoU between the CCI & the Administrative Council for Economic Defense of Brazil (CADE), Brazil

29. On April 23, Tata Steel and HSBC have partnered to successfully execute a blockchain-enabled, paperless trade transaction - a global first for the steel industry. The blockchain platforms - Contour & essDOCS are used under the transaction. The Letter of Credit (LC) was issued by HSBC UAE for Universal Tube & Plastic Industries, UAE (importer) with HSBC India as the advising and negotiating bank for Tata Steel, India (exporter). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Steel + HSBC = to implement the World's 1st blockchain enabled Paperless Transaction in the steel industry
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai | CEO – T. V. Narendran
- HQs of HSBC – London, UK | CEO – Noel Quinn

30. On April 23, The Department of Higher Education Andhra Pradesh government in collaboration with Microsoft has announced a strategic partnership to train 1.62 Cr Students & Unemployed Youth across 300-plus colleges and skill development centres in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh + Microsoft = a strategic partnership to train 1.62 Cr Students & Unemployed Youth
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

31. On April 26, IIT Guwahati and the North East Frontier Railway (NFR) Zone have signed an MoU to collaborate on research projects aiming at improving maintenance and operations of train running in the region and other fields. The NFR is one of the 17 railway zones of the Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati + NFR = an MoU to collaborate on research projects
- HQs of NFR – Maligaon, Guwahati, Assam | Chief Administrative Officer – Anshul Gupta
- Total No. of Railway Zones in India – 18

32. On April 27, Business Wire India FSS (Financial Software and Systems) and NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) have signed a strategic partnership to expand UPI transactions in International Markets. India is among the first countries globally to launch real-time payments rails, processing close to 3 billion transactions a month on the UPI network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FSS + NIPL = a strategic partnership to expand UPI transactions in International Markets
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- CEO of NIPL – Ritesh Shukla

33. On April 27, The RBI has issued guidelines for appointment of Statutory Auditors of banks and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), including housing finance companies. SCAs/SAs should be appointed for a continuous period of 3 years. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are exempted from this procedure. Banks and UCBS will be required to take prior approval of RBI for appointment/reappointment of SCAs/SAs, on an annual basis. Entities with asset size less than Rs 15,000 Cr should appoint a minimum of 1 audit firm for conducting statutory audit. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI issued guidelines for appointment of Statutory Auditors of banks & NBFCs
- Guidelines:
- SCAs/SAs should be appointed for a continuous period of 3 years
- RRBs are exempted from this procedure
- Banks and UCBs will be required to take prior approval of RBI for appointment/reappointment of SCAs/SAs
- Entities with asset size less than Rs 15,000 Cr should appoint a minimum of 1 audit firm for Statutory Audit
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

34. On April 28, The Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters. The Agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UK + N. Ireland = Agreement on Customs Cooperation & Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

35. On April 27, Assam Government has signed two MoUs with Bhutan and Nagaland for procurement of oxygen. A new oxygen plant is being set up in Bhutan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – signed 2 MoUs with Bhutan & Nagaland – for procurement of oxygen
- A new oxygen plant is being set up – in Bhutan
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

36. On April 29, TRIFED and The LINK Fund have signed an MoU for a project titled “Sustainable Livelihoods for Tribal Households in India” to work together towards Tribal Development and employment generation by providing support to tribals. The will work towards employment generation through technological intervention for efficiency in value addition for MFPs, produce and crafts diversification, skill training and enhancement of value additions in minor forest produce. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + The LINK Fund = an MoU for a project titled “Sustainable Livelihoods for Tribal Households in India”
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Launched in – 1987
- HQs of The LINK Fund – Geneva, Switzerland

Books & Authors

1. The Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled “Agriculture in India: Contemporary Challenges - in the Context of Doubling Farmers Income” authored by retired civil servant, Dr. Mohan Kanda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Agriculture in India: Contemporary Challenges - in the Context of Doubling Farmers Income” – by Mohan Kanda
- The book was released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

2. Prachand Praveer has written a book titled “Cinema Through Rasa: A Tryst with Masterpieces in the Light of Rasa Siddhanta”. This is translated from the original Hindi version “Abhinava Cinema” by Geeta Mirji Narayan & published by DK Printworld (P) Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Cinema Through Rasa: A Tryst with Masterpieces in the Light of Rasa Siddhanta” book – authored by Prachand Praveer
- Translated in English by – Geeta Mirji Narayan | Original Hindi version – “Abhinava Cinema”

3. On April 1, Inspired by the secrets of ‘shinise’ or Japanese companies dating back to the time of samurais, corporate leaders R. Gopalakrishnan and R. Narayanan take a deep dive into the art of growing and sustaining a business in their new book “Wisdom for Start-ups from Grownups: Discovering Corporate Ayurveda”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Wisdom for Start-ups from Grownups: Discovering Corporate Ayurveda” – by R. Gopalakrishnan & R. Narayanan

4. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has emphasised the need for people to elect their representatives on the basis of 4Cs - character, conduct, calibre and capacity. He has released the book “Suparipalana”, the Telugu translation of “Echo T Calling: Towards People-Centric Governance”, written by former Telangana Chief Secretary Shailendra K. Joshi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Echo T Calling: Towards People-Centric Governance” – written by S. K. Joshi (Telangana Chief Secretary)
- Telugu translation “Suparipalana” – released by M. Venkaiah Naidu

5. Published by Bloomsbury, “Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life” book authored by Nitin Anant Gokhale was released on 31 March. Manohar Parrikar, India’s former defence minister and 4-time chief minister of Goa is remembered as a popular politician, excellent administrator and a simple human being. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Manohar Parrikar: Brilliant Mind, Simple Life” book – authored by Nitin Gokhale

6. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled “Neelimarani: My Mother, My Hero” at Raj Bhavan. The book is authored by Dr Achyuta Samanta, the ruling Biju Janata Dal MP from Kandhmal and founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Neelimarani: My Mother, My Hero” book – authored by Dr Achyuta Samanta
- The book was released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

7. Ahead of Class 10 and 12 board exams, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the updated edition of his book “Exam Warriors” which is written by him. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Exam Warriors” book – authored by Narendra Modi

8. On April 7, PM Narendra Modi has released the Hindi translation of the book “Odisha Itihaas”, written by Utkal Keshari Harekrushna Mahtab. The book, available in Odia and English so far, has been translated into Hindi by Shankarlal Purohit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi has released the Hindi translation of the book “Odisha Itihaas”
- The book is written by – Harekrushna Mahtab (popularly known as ‘Utkal Keshari’)

9. “Akhtari: The Life and Music of Begum Akhtar”, originally written in Hindi, is now available in English, edited by Yatindra Mishra and published by HarperCollins India. The book will be released on April 30. One of India’s greatest singers, Akhtaribai Faizabadi was better known as ‘Begum Akhtar’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Akhtari: The Life and Music of Begum Akhtar” book – about the life of Akhtaribai Faizabadi (Begum Akhtar)
- The book is edited by – Yatindra Mishra (in English) | Publisher – HarperCollins India

10. Paro Anand’s “Being Gandhi” book caters to as much as the young readers as it does to the adults. Paro’s story encapsulates the growing relevance of Gandhian philosophy and the need to revisit it with each decade’s passing and with each plague of social and political divide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Being Gandhi” book – authored by Paro Anand

11. Suresh Raina has penned his memoir “Believe: What Life and Cricket Taught Me” along with cricket writer Bharat Sundaresan. The announcement about the memoir was made by publisher Penguin Random House India on April 13, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Believe: What Life and Cricket Taught Me” book – authored by Suresh Raina
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

12. On April 14, PM Narendra Modi has addressed the Association of Indian Universities' 95th Annual Meet and National Seminar of Vice-Chancellors. He launched 4 books related to Dr BR Ambedkar, authored by Kishor Makwana. The event was hosted by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi addressed – Association of Indian Universities' 95th Annual Meet & National Seminar of Vice-Chancellors
- He launched 4 books related to “Dr BR Ambedkar” – authored by Kishor Makwana
- [Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University](#) – located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

13. J. K. Rowling's new children book, “The Christmas Pig” will be released worldwide on October 12, 2021. Rowling is best known for her “Harry Potter” fantasy series. “The Christmas Pig” is Rowling's second published work and first children's book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Christmas Pig” – authored by J. K. Rowling

14. On April 19, Sutapa Basu has authored a new mystery novel titled “The Cursed Inheritance”. She is the winner of JK Papers AuthER Awards 2020 for her book “The Curse of Nader Shah”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Cursed Inheritance” novel & “The Curse of Nader Shah” book – authored by Sutapa Basu

15. On April 19, A new book titled “Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages” reveals how migration, both external and internal, has shaped both, Indians and Indian languages from ancient times. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) and is written by noted linguist Peggy Mohan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of India through its Languages” book – authored by Peggy Mohan
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

16. Fitoor is an Indian romantic drama film directed by Abhishek Kapoor and it is based on Charles Dickens' 1861 novel “Great Expectations”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Great Expectations” book – authored by Charles Dickens

17. “Interpreting Politics: Situated Knowledge, India, and the Rudolph Legacy” is edited by John Echeverri-Gent and Kamal Sadiq and published by the Oxford University Press. The book includes analysis of trends in political mobilisation in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Interpreting Politics: Situated Knowledge, India & the Rudolph Legacy” – edited by John Echeverri-Gent & Kamal Sadiq
- Publisher – Oxford University Press

18. “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times” is a new book by Jnanpith winner and internationally renowned author Amitav Ghosh, written during the course of the pandemic. HarperCollins Publishers India will publish the book as a special standalone edition in January 2022 under its prestigious Fourth Estate imprint. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Living Mountain: A Fable for Our Times” book – authored by Amitav Ghosh
- Publisher – HarperCollins

19. On April 21, Aakash Ranison, a well-known Climate Change Activist and Sustainability Influencer has launched an eBook “Climate Change Explained - for one and all”. The book focuses on the serious topic of climate change and how it can affect every individual’s life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Climate Change Explained - for one and all” – authored by Aakash Ranison

20. Yashaswini Chandra’s “The Tale of the Horse: A History of India on Horseback” is a charming book, both in its broad strokes as well as details. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Tale of the Horse: A History of India on Horseback” – authored by Yashaswini Chandra



Obituaries

1. Beverly Cleary has passed away recently. She was 104. She is the celebrated children's author whose memories of her Oregon childhood were shared with millions through the likes of Ramona and Beezus Quimby and Henry Huggins. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Beverly Cleary – an Author – passed away

2. On April 4, Veteran actress Shashikala has passed away at the age of 88. She is best known for her supporting roles in 1960s-70s films like 'Aarti', 'Gumrah' and 'Chhote Sarkar'. She received Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, in 2007 for her contribution to the Indian cinema. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shashikala – an Actress – passed away (Padma Shri in 2007)

3. Digvijaysinh Jhala (Zala), the first Environment Minister of India has passed away. He was the patriarch of the royal family of erstwhile princely state of Wankaner in present-day Morbi district of Gujarat. He was 89. He served as Environment Minister from 1982 to 1984. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Digvijaysinh Zala ([Morbi](#), [Gujarat](#)) – first Environment minister of India – passed away
- "The Eco-vote: Peoples' Representatives and Global Environment" book – authored by Digvijaysinh Zala

4. On April 1, Isamu Akasaki has passed away in Nagoya, Japan. He was 92. He was a Japanese physicist who helped develop blue light-emitting diodes, a breakthrough in the development of LEDs that earned him a "Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014" and transformed the way the world is illuminated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Isamu Akasaki ([Japan](#)) – an Engineer & Physicist – passed away
- He developed – Energy Efficient Blue LED (Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014)
- [Japan](#) – [Tokyo](#) – [Yen](#) | [PM](#) – [Yoshihide Suga](#)

5. On April 4, Well-known former International Table Tennis player Suhas Kulkarni has passed away. He was 68. He had also won National Masters' TT Championship in Indore in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suhas Kulkarni – Table Tennis player – passed away (winner of National Masters' TT Championship 2019)

6. On April 6, Padmashree awardee Fatima Rafiq Zakaria has passed away due old age illness. She was renowned journalist, academician and chairman of Maulana Azad Educational Trust and president of Maulana Azad Education Society. She was 85. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fatima Rafiq Zakaria – a Journalist & Academician – passed away

7. On April 4, Founder member of the Samajwadi Party and former UP minister Bhagwati Singh has passed away. He was 89. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagwati Singh ([Uttar Pradesh](#)) – a Politician – passed away
- He was the founder member of – Samajwadi Party

8. On April 6, The president of Gita Press, Radheshyamc Khemka, has passed away following a brief illness. He was 87. Khemka took 'Sanatan' literature to the masses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Radheshyamc Khemka – President of Gita Press ([Gorakhpur](#)) – passed away

9. India's first female cricket commentator Chandra Nayudu has passed away. She was the daughter of legendary cricketer C K Nayudu, the first captain of the Indian cricket team in test matches. She is a retired professor in English, is best remembered for her cricket commentaries in the 1970's. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandra Nayudu – India's first female cricket commentator – passed away (retired professor in English)

10. On April 4, Noted Shooting Coach Sanjay Chakraverty has passed away recently. He was 79. He was a Dronacharya awardee. He trained many shooters who are Rajiv Khel Ratna & Arjuna Awardees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Chakraverty – a Shooting Coach – World passed away (Dronacharya awardee)

11. On April 9, Prince Philip, the husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, has passed away at the age of 99. He was officially known as Duke of Edinburgh and was born as the Prince of Greece and Denmark on 10th June 1921 in Greece. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prince Philip – Prince of England – passed away (the husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II)
- He was officially known as 'Duke of Edinburgh'

12. On April 11, Mita Haque, a leading Rabindra Sangeet singer, has passed away from coronavirus-related complications at the age of 59. Mita Haque was awarded Ekushey Padak, the second highest civilian award in Bangladesh, by the government in 2020 for her contributions to music. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mita Haque ([Bangladesh](#)) – a Rabindra Sangeet singer – passed away (winner of Ekushey Padak in 2020)

13. On April 11, Veteran Punjabi actor Satish Kaul, who featured in several Hindi films and shows including "Mahabharat", has passed away due to COVID-19 related complications. He was 74. The actor worked in over 300 Punjabi and Hindi films including "Pyaar Toh Hona Hi Tha", "Aunty No 1" and the TV show "Vikram Aur Betaal". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satish Kaul – Punjabi Actor – passed away

14. On April 12, Pakistani Human rights crusader and former journalist Ibn Abdur Rehman has passed away. He had won the “Ramon Magsaysay award” for his work on fostering India-Pakistan relations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ibn Abdur Rehman ([Pakistan](#)) – Human Rights Activist & Former Journalist – passed away (Ramon Magsaysay award)
- [Pakistan](#) – [Islamabad](#) – [Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM](#) – Imran Khan | [President](#) – Arif Alvi

15. On April 12, Renowned Historian and Padma Shri Awardee (2020) Dr Yogesh Praveen has passed away in Lucknow. Praveen is the author of countless books, essays, poems, and stories on Awadh and Lucknow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Yogesh Praveen – a Historian – passed away (Padma Shri in Literature & Education - 2020)

16. On April 12, Former India hockey player Balbir Singh Junior has passed away at the age of 88. He was a member of the silver medal- winning “1958 Asian Games” Indian hockey team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Balbir Singh Junior – Former India Hockey Player – passed away
- Silver medal - winning “1958 Asian Games”

17. Former Chief Election Commissioner G. V. G. Krishnamurthy has passed away due to age-related ailments. He was 86. Krishnamurthy served during his tenure from October 1, 1993 to September 30, 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. V. G. Krishnamurthy – Former Chief Election Commissioner – passed away

18. On April 17, Veteran Tamil actor Vivekh has passed away in Chennai due to a massive heart attack. The actor was 59. He was a Padma Shri recipient. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivekh ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – a Tamil actor – passed away (Padma Shri recipient)

19. On April 17, Renowned Radiologist and the first director of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Dr. Kakarla Subba Rao has passed away. He was conferred the civilian honour of Padma Shri by the Government of India for his contributions to the field of medicine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Kakarla Subba Rao – a Renowned Radiologist – passed away (1st Director of NIMS)
- Padma Shri in the field of ‘Medicine’

20. On April 16, Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) chief Ranjit Sinha has passed away. He was 68. Mr. Sinha was a 1974-batch IPS officer of Bihar cadre. He earlier headed the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Railway Protection Force and was appointed as the CBI chief in December 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranjit Sinha – Former Chief of CBI/ITBP/RPF – passed away (IPS officer of Bihar cadre)

21. On April 14, Football Olympian Ahmed Hussain Lala has passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 89. Ahmed represented India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. He was the coach of the Indian team for the President Cup in Seoul. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ahmed Hussain Lala – a Football Player & Coach – passed away (1956 Melbourne Olympics)

22. On April 16, Vinay Agrawal, Chief Executive Officer and Whole-Time Director of brokerage firm Angel Broking has passed away. Angel Broking Limited (ABL) is one of the largest retail broking houses in India in terms of active clients on NSE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinay Agrawal – CEO of Angel Broking brokerage firm – passed away

23. On April 16, Former Union minister and senior BJP leader Bachi Singh Rawat has passed away. He was 71. He was a Union Minister of State for Science and Technology in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bachi Singh Rawat – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | Position – MoS for Science & Technology)

24. On April 16, Former Assam chief minister Bhumidhar Barman has passed away. He was 89. The Congress veteran was Chief Minister for 23 days from April 22, 1996. He had held key portfolios such as Education, Health and Revenue. He was first elected to the Assembly in 1967 from the Barkhetry constituency in western Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhumidhar Barman – a Politician (Former Assam CM) – passed away (Party – INS | Constituency – Barkhetry, Assam)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

25. On April 13, Charles “Chuck” Geschke has passed away at age 81. He is the co-founder of the major software company Adobe Inc. who helped develop Portable Document Format (PDF) technology. In 2009, President Barack Obama awarded Geschke and Warnock the National Medal of Technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Charles Geschke – Co-founder of Adobe Inc – passed away
- HQs of Adobe Inc – California, US | CEO – Shantanu Narayen | Co-Founders – Charles Geschke, John Warnock

26. On April 19, Prominent Marathi film director and National Film Awards winner ‘Sumitra Bhave’ passed away. She was awarded the prestigious “President Golden Lotus National Award” for her film “Kaasav”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumitra Bhave – a Marathi Film Director – passed away
- She – received the prestigious “President Golden Lotus National Award” for her film “Kaasav”

27. On April 19, Professor G. Venkatasubbaiah has passed away. He was 107. He is popularly known in Kannada literary field, was a lexicographer, grammarian and literary critic. He has compiled 12 dictionaries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. Venkatasubbaiah – a Kannada Lexicographer – passed away

28. On April 19, Walter F. Mondale, the former Vice President of the US and champion of liberal politics, Activist government and civil rights has passed away. He was 93. He ran as the Democratic candidate for president in 1984. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Walter Mondale – former Vice President of the US – passed away
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

29. On April 20, Chad's President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno has passed away. He was killed in the battle against the rebels from Libya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Idriss Deby Itno – President of Chad – passed away
- Chad – N'Djamena – CFA franc

30. On April 20, Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Maidavolu Narasimham, famously known as the 'Father of Indian Banking Reforms', has passed away at the age of 94. Narasimham was the 13th governor of RBI and he served as the central bank head from May 2, 1977 to November 30, 1977. The book titled "From Reserve Bank to Finance Ministry and Beyond: Some Reminiscences" was authored by him. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Narasimham – Former RBI Governor – passed away ('Father of Indian Banking Reforms')
- "From Reserve Bank to Finance Ministry and Beyond: Some Reminiscences" – authored by M. Narasimham
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

31. On April 21, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, a renowned Islamic scholar & peace activist has passed away. The 96-year-old scholar was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2000 and was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan this year in 'Spiritualism'. He was the founder of Centre for Peace and Spirituality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maulana Wahiduddin Khan – a renowned Islamic scholar & peace Activist – passed away
- He was the founder of – Centre for Peace and Spirituality
- "Padma Bhushan - 2000" | "Padma Vibhushan - 2021" in 'Spiritualism'

32. On April 21, Eminent poet and critic Sankha Ghosh has passed away in Kolkata. He was 89. He was awarded 'Padma Bhushan' in 2011 in 'Literature' and 'Jnanpith Award' in 2016. He was one of most important names in Bengali poetry. He was awarded the 'Sahitya Akademi' Award in 1977 for his poetry collection "Babarer Prarthana". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sankha Ghosh – Eminent Bengali Poet & Critic – passed away
- 'Padma Bhushan' in 2011 in 'Literature' | 'Jnanpith Award' in 2016
- 'Sahitya Akademi' Award in 1977 for his poetry "Babarer Prarthana"



33. On April 20, Chairman of Karnataka Yakshagana Academy and a scholar M. A. Hegde has passed away in Bengaluru on April 18. He was 73. He was also a Talamaddale 'arthadari' and Yakshagana artiste, had written at least 15 Yakshagana 'Prasangas'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. A. Hegde – Chairman of Karnataka Yakshagana Academy – passed away

34. On April 19, Eminent Director, Producer and Screenwriter Sumitra Bhave has passed away in Pune following a brief illness. She was 78. Ms. Bhave was a veritable "social scientist" filmmaker. She had won 3 National Film Awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumitra Bhave – a Director, Producer & Screenwriter ([Marathi Cinema](#)) – passed away (3 National Film Awards)

35. On April 21, Renowned Qawwali Singer Gulam Farid Sabri of the Sabri Brothers duo has passed away in Jaipur. He was 58. Sabri Brothers are known for the evergreen numbers like Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin Der Na Ho Jaye and Ek Mulakat Zaruri Hai Sanam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Farid Sabri – a Renowned Qawwali Singer – passed

36. On April 24, Popular Gujarati and Hindi film actor Amit Mistry has passed away after suffering a major cardiac arrest. He was 47. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Mistry – Popular Gujarati & Hindi film Actor – passed away

37. Indian Nuclear Scientist Krishnamurthy Santhanam, who played noteworthy role in 1998 nuclear tests at Pokhran, has passed away. He was awarded with the Padma Bhushan in 1999 in Science & Engineering. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Krishnamurthy Santhanam – Indian Nuclear Scientist – passed away (Padma Bhushan in 1999 in Sci. & Engineering)

38. Classical singer Rajan Mishra has passed away due to Covid-19 related complications. He was 70. He was the winner of Padma Bhushan, Sangeet Natak Akademi award and the Gandharva National award. He was associated with 'Benaras Gharana'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajan Mishra – Classical Singer – passed away ('Benaras Gharana')
- He was winner of = Padma Bhushan + Sangeet Natak Akademi Award + Gandharva National Award

39. On April 19, Google has celebrated the 151st birthday of a Russian surgeon, professor, poet and author Dr. Vera Gedroits. Dr. Gedroits is credited as the country's first female military surgeon and one of the world's first female professors of surgery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 19 – 151st birthday of Dr. Vera Gedroits (a Russian surgeon, professor, poet & author)
- She was Russia's first female military surgeon
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)



40. On April 24, L. Sabaretnam (80), Director & Chairman of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited has died of heart failure. He was also the former Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L. Sabaretnam – Director & Chairman of ‘Chennai Super Kings’ Cricket Ltd – passed away

41. On April 19, Former Bihar Education Minister and Janata Dal (United) MLA Mewalal Chaudhry has passed away. He was the sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Bihar's Tarapur constituency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mewalal Chaudhry – Former Bihar Education Minister & Janata Dal (United) MLA – passed away
- His constituency – Tarapur, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

42. On April 26, John Konrads, who set 26 individual freestyle swimming world records and won an Olympic Gold medal in 1960, has passed away recently. He was 78. At the age of 14, Konrads was a reserve for Australia's Olympic swim team at the 1956 Melbourne Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Konrads ([Australia](#)) – a Swimmer – passed away (Olympic Gold medal in 1960)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

43. On April 25, Famous Hindi writer Manzoor Ahtesham has passed away. Manzoor Ahtesham was a Hindi writer from Bhopal, who raised important questions about the identity of the increasingly alienated Muslim minority. Manzoor Ahtesham's first published short story in 1973 was “Ramzaan Mein Maut” (Death in Ramzaan). He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manzoor Ahtesham – a Hindi writer – passed away (Padma Shri in 2003)
- His first published short story in 1973 – “Ramzaan Mein Maut”

44. On April 26, A 1977-batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, Former Sahasthra Seema Bal Chief Arun Chaudhary has passed away. He was 66. He also served for nearly two decades in the Intelligence Bureau (IB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arun Chaudhary ([Bihar](#)) – Former Chief of SSB – passed away
- [HQs of SSB – New Delhi | Director General – Kumar Rajesh Chandra](#)

45. On April 25, Supreme Court judge Justice ‘Mohan M. Shantanagoudar’ has passed away. He was 62. He was born in 1958 and enrolled as an advocate in 1980 and was the 9th seniormost judge of the Supreme Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohan M. Shantanagoudar – 9th seniormost judge of the Supreme Court – passed away

46. Noted Odia and English writer 'Manoj Das' has passed away at the age of 87 in Puducherry. He was conferred with the 'Padma Bhushan' award in 2020 for his contribution in the field of Literature and Education. He was earlier conferred the 'Padma Shri' in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Das – an Odia & English writer – passed away
- 'Padma Bhushan' in 2020 – for Literature & Education | 'Padma Shri' in 2001

47. On April 26, Famous poet & Padma Shri award winner Dadudan Gadhavi has passed away. He was also honoured with Padma Shri Award for his rich contribution to the field of Art & Literature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dadudan Gadhavi ([Gujarat](#)) – Famous Gujarati poet – passed away
- 'Padma Shri Award' in 2021 in the field of 'Art & Literature'

48. On April 28, "Apollo 11" astronaut Michael Collins has died of cancer. He was 90. On January 9, 1969, NASA announced that Mr. Collins, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Aldrin would be on the crew of "Apollo 11", the United States' first moon landing attempt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Michael Collins ([US](#)) – an Astronaut – passed away ("Apollo 11" mission)

49. On April 27, Eminent author of children's literature 'Leela Nambudiripad' also known as 'Sumangala' has passed away. She was 88. She had won the Kendra Sahitya Academy Award for children's literature in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Leela Nambudiripad' also known as 'Sumangala' – an Author – passed away
- "Kendra Sahitya Academy Award" for children's literature in 2013

50. Famous Indian Musician Composer Shravan Rathod of Nadeem-Shravan duo, has passed away due to COVID-19 related complications. Rathod was 66. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shravan Rathod ([Maharashtra](#)) – a Musician Composer – passed away (Nadeem-Shravan Musical duo)

51. On April 30, Veteran lawyer and former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee has passed away after contracting Covid-19. He was 91. Sorabjee, a Padma Vibhushan recipient, began his legal practice in 1953 in Bombay High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Soli Sorabjee – Veteran lawyer & former Attorney General – passed away (Padma Vibhushan)

52. On April 30, Tamil film director-cinematographer K. V. Anand has passed away in Chennai due to Covid-19 related complications. He was 54. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. V. Anand – Tamil film Director-Cinematographer – passed away

53. On April 30, Television journalist Rohit Sardana has passed away days after he tested positive for Covid-19. He was 41. He was an executive editor and TV news anchor with Aaj Tak of the India Today Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rohit Sardana – a Television Journalist – passed away (Anchor of Aaj Tak news channel)

54. On April 26, Former Managing Director of Maruti Suzuki and founder of Carnation Auto India, Jagdish Khattar has passed away due to a cardiac arrest. He was 78-years old. Khattar was with Maruti Udyog Limited from 1993 till his retirement in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jagdish Khattar – Former MD of Maruti Suzuki & founder of Carnation Auto India – passed away



Persons in News

1. 47-year-old Shyamala Goli swam across the 30km stretch of Palk Strait (Ram Setu) within the clocked time of 13 Hours and 47 minutes. With this, Shyamala has become the second Indian woman to swim across the Palk Strait, breaking Bula Choudhury's record. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shyamala Goli ([Telangana](#)) – swam across 30km stretch of Palk Strait (Ram Setu) – within 13 Hours and 47 minutes
- She has become the 2nd Indian woman to swim across the Palk Strait

2. On April 3, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has accepted an invitation by the Mayor of London to represent Delhi and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum, which comprises 40 world cities including London, Tokyo and New York. This year's theme of this Forum is "The Future of Culture". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arvind Kejriwal – to represent Delhi and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

3. On April 7, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was on an official visit to India followed by a two-day trip to Pakistan. The focus of Lavrov's visit to the region was on the Afghanistan peace process and he spoke in New Delhi of the need for an "inclusive solution". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sergey Lavrov ([Foreign Minister of Russia](#)) – was on an official visit to India
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

4. On April 8, Israel's President Reuven Rivlin has invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form a majority government in Israel's fourth election since April 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reuven Rivlin – invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form a majority government
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

5. On April 8, Prince Hamzah bin Al Hussein, the former crown prince and half-brother of ruling monarch Abdullah, has reportedly been placed under House Arrest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prince Hamzah bin Al Hussein – placed under 'House Arrest'
- [Jordan – Amman – Dinar | Prince – Hamzah bin Al Hussein](#)

6. On April 12, A 5-year-old girl named Kiara Kaur has entered London's World Book of Record and Asia Book of Record for reading 36 books non-stop for 105 minutes. The World Book of Records called her a 'Child Prodigy'. She lives with her family in Abu Dhabi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiara Kaur ([Indian-American](#)) – entered "London's World Book of Record" & "Asia Book of Record" – for reading 36 books non-stop for 105 minutes



7. On April 10, The United Arab Emirates has named the next two astronauts in its space programme, including the country's first female astronaut - Noura al-Matroushi. In 2019, Maj. Hazzaa al-Mansoori became the UAE's first astronaut in space. The UAE also has set the ambitious goal of building a human colony on Mars by 2117. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Noura al-Matroushi – named the first female astronaut of the UAE for the space programme
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

8. On April 10, Armyman Bharat Pannu has made two Guinness World Records for fastest Solo Cycling in October 2020. Lieutenant Colonel Pannu made the first record by cycling from Leh to Manali, on October 10, 2020, in 35 hours, 32 minutes, and 22 seconds. His second record saw him cycle the 'Golden Quadrilateral' route, which connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharat Pannu – made two Guinness World Records for Fastest Solo Cycling
- First record – by cycling from Leh to Manali
- Second record – by cycling the 'Golden Quadrilateral' route

9. On April 13, Minister of Defence of Republic of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev is on an official visit to India from April 7-10, 2021. This will be the first meeting after Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev was re-appointed as Defence Minister of Kazakhstan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nurlan Yermekbayev ([Defence minister of Kazakhstan](#)) – was on an official visit to India from April 7-10
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

10. On April 20, Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world, becoming the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Priyanka Mohite ([Maharashtra](#)) – became the 1st Indian woman to scale Mt Annapurna
- Mt Annapurna (10th highest mountain peak in the world) – located in Nepal

11. On April 8, Soliha Shabir from Dalgate in Srinagar has added her name in "India's World Records" as the youngest and first author in Jammu and Kashmir. 22-year-old Shabir has so far written three books, 'In the lawn of dark', 'Obsolete - The poem Market', 'Zoon - The heart of Habba Khatoon'. Zoon is the first book that has recreated the theme of Habba Khatoon's poetry and essence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Soliha Shabir ([Srinagar, J&K](#)) – added her name in "India's World Records" as the Youngest & 1st Author from J&K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



Science & Technology

1. Astrome, a women-led startup, has developed an innovative wireless product called “Giga Mesh” that gives fibre-like bandwidth at a fraction of fibre cost to help telecom operators deliver reliable, low-cost Internet services to suburban and rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Astrome – developed an innovative wireless product called “Giga Mesh”
- HQs of Astrome – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Neha Satak

2. The Maharashtra government has declared a region at Amboli in Western Ghats in Sindhudurg district, where a rare freshwater fish species - “Schistura Hiranyakeshi” was discovered, as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra declared ‘Amboli’ region in Western ghats in Sindhudurg district – as a Biodiversity Heritage Site
- A rare freshwater fish species - “Schistura Hiranyakeshi” was discovered – in Amboli, Sindhudurg, MH
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

3. A research led by Ritesh Patel, Vaibhav Pant, and Prof. Dipankar Banerjee from Aryabhata Research Institute of observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital has led to the development of an algorithm, “CIISCO” (CMEs Identification in Inner Solar Corona) to detect and track the accelerating solar eruption in the lower corona. The new technique will be used in India's first solar mission ‘Aditya-L1’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers from ARIES institute developed a new Algorithm called “CIISCO” to detect and track the accelerating solar eruption
- “CIISCO” – will be used in India's first solar mission ‘Aditya-L1’
- CIISCO – CMEs Identification in Inner Solar Corona
- HQs of ARIES – Nainital, Uttarakhand | Director – Dr. Dipankar Banerjee

4. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has decided to take the digital route to use sensor-based Internet of Things (IoT) devices to effectively monitor the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in more than 6 lakh villages. For this, National Jal Jeevan Mission in collaboration with Tata Community Initiatives Trust (TCIT) and Tata Trusts recently completed pilot projects in several remote villages of 5 States i.e. Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry – to use Internet of Things (IoT) devices to monitor the implementation of NJJM
- NJJM + TCIT + Tata Trusts = completed pilot projects in 5 States: Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, MH & HP
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

5. A new species of flowering plants, recently discovered in south Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, has been named “Argyreia Sharadchandrajii” after Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar. The research paper “Argyreia sharadchandrajii (Convolvulaceae): A new species from the Western Ghats, India” was recently published in the Journal of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Argyreia Sharadchandrajii” (flowering Plant) – discovered in Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- It is named after – Sharad Pawar (Chief of Nationalist Congress Party)

6. On April 1, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a lightweight Bullet-Proof Jacket (BPJ) with the help of new technology. The jacket weighs around 9 kg. The jacket has been developed by Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), a DRDO laboratory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DMSRDE-DRDO ([Kanpur](#)) – developed a lightweight Bullet-Proof Jacket (BPJ) for Armed Forces
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

7. On April 1, Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) manufactured “Akash Missiles” were flagged off by Lt Gen A. P. Singh for delivery to the Indian Army. BDL manufactures Akash Missiles both for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. The Akash Weapon System is designed & developed by DRDO and manufactured by BDL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lt Gen A. P. Singh flagged off – “Akash Missiles” (Manufactured by – BDL | Designed & developed by – DRDO)
- [HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra](#)
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

8. On April 3, Two researchers from IIT Kanpur have developed a touch-sensitive, tactile, haptic watch that can help visually impaired people learn what time it is by touching the face. The prototypes were developed by Siddhartha Panda and Vishwaraj Srivastava. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kanpur – developed touch-sensitive watch for the visually impaired people
- The prototypes were developed by – Siddhartha Panda & Vishwaraj Srivastava

9. On April 3, Russian scientists have launched one of the world’s biggest underwater neutrino telescopes called the “Baikal-GVD” (Gigaton Volume Detector) in the waters of Lake Baikal, the world’s deepest lake situated in Siberia. The construction of this telescope was started in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russian scientists – launched “Baikal-GVD” - an underwater neutrino telescopes – in Baikal lake
- [Baikal lake \(world’s deepest lake\) – situated in Siberia, Russia](#)
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

10. On April 1, Paytm Money has launched a new Technology Development & Innovation Centre in Pune. The new facility at Pune will focus on driving product innovation for Paytm Money, specifically for equity, mutual funds, and digital gold. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm Money – launched a new Technology Development & Innovation Centre – in Pune, Maharashtra
- [HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar](#)
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari](#)

11. On April 5, Defence laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ), a DRDO laboratory has developed an 'Advanced Chaff Technology' to safeguard naval ships against enemy missile attack. The DLJ has indigenously developed 3 variants of this critical technology - Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR), meeting Indian Navy's qualitative requirements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DLJ-DRDO – developed 3 variants of 'Advanced Chaff Technology' to safeguard Naval Ships
- HQs of DLJ – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

12. On April 5, Uranus, which is the seventh planet from the sun, is reflecting X-rays, according to a new study by scientists published in the Journal of Geophysical Research. Chandra X-ray Observatory of NASA has detected emission of X-rays on Uranus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory detected emission of X-rays on – Uranus
- Discovery was published in – Journal of Geophysical Research
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

13. Russia is testing a Nuclear Torpedo namely "Poseidon 2M39" in the Arctic that has the power to trigger Radioactive Tsunamis off the US coast. Russia would deploy the 'Poseidon 2M39' missile to its Arctic region next summer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia is testing a Nuclear Torpedo namely "Poseidon 2M39" in the Arctic
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

14. On April 6, A coalition of energy and industrial firms named "India H2 Alliance" (IH2A) has come together for commercializing hydrogen technologies and creating a hydrogen economy. This alliance is led by Chart Industries and Reliance Industries Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India H2 Alliance" (IH2A) – for commercializing Hydrogen Technologies & creating a Hydrogen Economy
- This alliance is led by – Chart Industries (US) & Reliance Industries Ltd (Mumbai)

15. NASA's Odyssey spacecraft has marked 20 years of mapping Mars. It was launched on April 7, 2001. The orbiter takes its name from Arthur C. Clarke's novel "2001: A Space Odyssey". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA's Odyssey spacecraft – marked 20 years of mapping Mars (launched on April 7, 2001)
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

16. On April 9, Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched NanoSniffer, the world's first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD) developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup. NanoSniffer is a 100% Made in India product. NanoSniffer has successfully passed Pune based DRDO's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) testing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal (India) – launched “NanoSniffer” - world’s 1st Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD)
- It is developed by – NanoSniff Technologies (IIT Bombay)
- Location of NanoSniff Technologies – Mumbai, Maharashtra

17. On April 9, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has adopted 295 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) established by Atal Innovation Mission nationwide to inculcate scientific research and innovation culture among students. CSIR with their 36 labs have adopted 295 ATLs and their students across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR – adopted 295 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) established by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)

18. SpaceX’s “Inspiration4”, the world’s first all-civilian rocket ride to orbit Earth, disclosed the final two members of the four-person crew that is expected to undergo a historic journey into space. Chris Sembroski and Dr. Sian Proctor were the additional two people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – to launch “Inspiration4” - world’s 1st all-civilian Earth Orbiter Mission
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

19. A Russian ‘Soyuz MS-18’ spacecraft has launched an American Astronaut and two Cosmonauts to the International Space Station from Kazakhstan on April 9. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Soyuz MS-18’ spacecraft (Russia) – launched with 3 members to the International Space Station – from Kazakhstan
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

20. On April 12, Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal has launched DGFT’s “Trade Facilitation” mobile app for promoting ease of doing business and providing quick access to information to importers/exporters. It has been developed by the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – launched DGFT’s “Trade Facilitation” mobile app (developed by – TCS)
- DGFT functions under – “Ministry of Commerce & Industry” (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DGFT – New Delhi | Director General – Amit Yadav
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan

21. On April 13, the occasion of its 34th Foundation Day, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has launched 3 new technology solutions that are meant to tackle cybersecurity and supercomputing needs in India. The three technologies include: Cyber Security Operation Centre (CSOC), Parallel Development Environment (ParaDE) and the Automatic Parallelizing Compiler (CAPC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- April 13 – 34th Foundation Day of C-DAC
- C-DAC – launched 3 new technology solutions: CSoc, ParaDE & CAPC
- CSoc is located – at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Director General – Hemant Darbari

22. On April 14, The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center has announced that the UAE is partnering with Japan's ispace company to send a rover named "Rashid" to the moon on an unmanned spacecraft by 2022, rather than 2024. UAE has also set the ambitious goal of building a human colony on Mars by 2117. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE + ispace ([Japan](#)) = partnership to send a rover named "Rashid" to the moon by 2022
- UAE's ambitious goal of building a human colony on Mars – by 2117
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

23. On April 14, Nine teams of scientists from India and Sri Lanka will undertake Scientific Research Projects in 9 different fields with bilateral support from the two countries. The cooperation between India and Sri Lanka was initiated in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9 teams of scientists from India & Sri Lanka – to undertake Scientific Research Projects in 9 different fields
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

24. On April 10, Researchers from the IIT Kharagpur have found a novel Betel Leaf Oil Extraction Technology that they claim is more efficient. The extractor is capable of saving 44% of the time and 30% of the energy requirement while increasing the oil yield by more than 16%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur – found a novel Betel Leaf Oil Extraction Technology

25. On April 13, The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has approved additional funding towards clinical studies of India's first of its kind mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine - "HGCO19", developed by Pune-based biotechnology company Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. Vaccine Discovery Programme supported by the Department of Biotechnology under the "Mission COVID Suraksha - The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission" moves into clinical trials. The programme is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "HGCO19" - India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine – developed by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd ([Pune](#))
- Vaccine Discovery Programme – is implemented by BIRAC ([New Delhi](#))



26. On April 15, The ISRO and CNES (France) have signed an agreement for cooperation for the country's first human space mission "Gaganyaan". The agreement was announced during French Foreign Affairs minister Jean-Yves Le Drian visit to the ISRO. France agreed to provide technical support for the construction of an "Astronaut Training Centre" in Bangalore, Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO (India) + CNES (France) = an agreement for cooperation for India's 1st human space mission "Gaganyaan"
- French Foreign Affairs minister – Jean-Yves Le Drian
- France agreed to provide technical support to construct an "Astronaut Training Centre" – in Bangalore
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

27. Under the "Artemis" programme, sponsored by the Biden-Harris administration, NASA has planned to land a woman and a person of colour, both for the first time, on the Moon's surface by 2024 and create sustainable missions to the earth's natural satellite by 2028. The group includes nine women and several people of colour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA aims to land first woman & person of colour on Moon by 2024 – under "Artemis" mission
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

28. Researchers at IIT Delhi have developed a handheld Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS)-based platform for early diagnosis of dengue and also gives dengue test results within one hour (rapid diagnosis). It has been successfully tested on the clinical blood samples in collaboration with ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR), New Delhi, and also helps in rapid detection of HIV. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Delhi – developed a "SERS-based platform" – for early diagnosis of dengue & provides result within an hour
- SERS – Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy
- It has been successfully tested on the clinical blood samples – in collaboration with ICMR-NIMR

29. On April 16, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched World's 1st affordable and long-lasting hygiene product "DuroKea Series", developed by IIT Hyderabad researchers. This next generation DuroKea antimicrobial technology starts at Rs 189, kills 99.99% of germs instantly and leaves behind the long-lasting protective nanoscale coating up to 35 days till next wash. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – launched World's 1st affordable and long-lasting hygiene product "DuroKea Series"
- It is developed by – IIT Hyderabad
- Price range starts at – Rs 189 | It kills 99.99% of germs instantly | Long-lasting coating up to 35 days

30. On April 22, US space agency NASA is set to launch "SpaceX Crew Dragon Second" flight to the International Space Station. The Crew-2 flight will carry 4 astronauts. The mission is the second of the six certified crew missions of NASA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched “SpaceX Crew Dragon II” flight to the International Space Station - carrying 4 astronauts
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

31. Russia will launch the “Luna 25” mission by October 2021. The lander that will launch in October is designed to study ice permanently frozen below the moon's surface. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia will launch the “Luna 25” mission by October 2021
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

32. On April 19, NASA’s ‘Ingenuity’ Mars Helicopter became the first aircraft in history to make a powered, controlled flight on Martian/Mars surface. The Ingenuity team at the agency’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California confirmed the flight succeeded after receiving data from the helicopter via NASA’s Perseverance Mars rover. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s ‘Ingenuity’ Helicopter – became the first aircraft to land on the Martian/Mars surface
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

33. On April 17, Meghalaya has yielded India’s first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky disks, taking the species count of the flying mammal in the country to 130. The disk-footed bat (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) was recorded in the north-eastern State’s Lailad area near the Nongkhylliem Wildlife Sanctuary, about 1,000 km west of its nearest known habitat in Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first bamboo-dwelling bat or disk-footed bat (*Eudiscopus denticulus*) – discovered in Meghalaya
- Total species count of the flying mammal in India – 130
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

34. The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA) hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences successfully returned to Cape Town on April 10, 2021, after completing a journey of 12,000 nautical miles in 94 days, including stopovers. The team reached its destination Bharati station on February 27 and Maitri station on March 8 in Antarctica. Bharati and Maitri are India’s permanent research base stations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to “Antarctica” (40-ISEA) – successfully returned to Cape Town, South Africa
- It was hosted by – Ministry of Earth Sciences
- India’s permanent research base stations – Bharati & Maitri

35. On April 20, The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru of DRDO has developed SpO₂ (Blood Oxygen Saturation) supplemental oxygen delivery system for soldiers posted at extreme high-altitude areas. This automatic system can also prove to be a boon during the current Covid-19 situation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DEBEL-DRDO (Bengaluru) – developed “SpO2” (Blood Oxygen Saturation) Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

36. On April 17, A student at the Instituto de Astrofisica de Canarias, a research institute in the Canary Islands, has discovered a new super Earth orbiting the star “GJ 740”, a red dwarf. It only takes 2.4 days to complete one orbit around its star. It's called a ‘super’ Earth because of its massive size. Super Earths are at least twice the size of our planet and up to 10 times its mass. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A research institute in the Canary Islands discovered “GJ 740” - a new super Earth orbiting the star
- It only takes 2.4 days to complete one orbit or one year

37. On April 21, IIT Kharagpur has successfully commercialised its flagship healthcare product “COVIRAP” the novel diagnostic technology to zero on infectious diseases including COVID-19. The results can be made available within 45 minutes of obtaining the patient sample. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur – successfully commercialised its flagship healthcare product “COVIRAP” diagnostic technology

38. On April 20, Russia is ready to start building its own space station with the aim of launching it into orbit by 2030. The project would mark a new chapter for Russian space exploration and an end to more than two decades of close cooperation with the United States aboard the ageing International Space Station (ISS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia is planning to launch its own space station by 2030
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

39. On April 16, Hinduja flagship firm Ashok Leyland has delivered the first lot of Light Bulletproof Vehicles (LBPV) to the Indian Air Force in collaboration with Lockheed Martin. The LBPV is an adapted version of Lockheed Martin's CVNG (common vehicle next-gen). It has been developed under the transfer of technology (TOT) from Lockheed Martin to Ashok Leyland. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashok Leyland + Lockheed Martin – delivered 1st lot of Light Bullet-proof Vehicles (LBPV) to the Indian Air Force
- HQs of Ashok Leyland – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Vipin Sondhi (owned by Hinduja Group)
- HQs of Lockheed Martin – Maryland, USA | CEO – Jim Taiclet

40. On April 22, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has Shared on the official Instagram of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope's, the post features Interacting Galaxies Arp 273, which is a combination of spiral galaxy UGC 1810 and UGC 1813. According to NASA, Arp 273 lies in the constellation Andromeda and is roughly 300 million light-years away from Earth. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NASA released an image of “interacting galaxies Arp 273” – captured by NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope
- ‘Arp 273’ – lies roughly 300 million light-years away from Earth
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958](#)

41. On April 22, NASA has sent the ‘Perseverance’ rover to Mars with some bonus technology called the Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment or “MOXIE” - a device that can turn carbon dioxide into oxygen, much as trees do on Earth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA sent the ‘Perseverance’ rover to Mars with “MOXIE” technology – that can turn CO_2 into Oxygen
- MOXIE – Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958](#)

42. On April 22, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced to support 8 joint research projects of the Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi. The ISRO will support the projects under its ‘RESPOND’ programme with varying duration of 1-3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – to support 8 joint research projects of Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi – under ‘RESPOND’ programme
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969](#)

43. Kosovar Biologist Halil Ibrahim has discovered a new insect species named “Potamophylax Coronavirus” in Kosovo’s western Bjeshket e Nemuna (Accursed Mountains) National Park. He collected the species as an associate professor of the Natural Sciences Faculty at Pristina University. It is considerably smaller, and lives in a different habitat, in open, high-altitude zones, some 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) above sea level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Halil Ibrahim ([Kosovo](#)) – discovered a new insect species named “Potamophylax Coronavirus”
- It was discovered in – Accursed Mountains National Park ([Kosovo](#))

44. On April 23, IIT Kharagpur and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) have signed an MoU to set up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development at the Institute. The Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators-India (ASHA-India) initiative under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) is one of its kind innovations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur + MoHUA = an MoU to set up an Accelerator Centre for Research & Development at the Institute

45. On April 23, The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of IIT-Kanpur have tied-up to provide a gateway of opportunities to tech-based start-ups to usher a circular economy and an entrepreneurial ecosystem. To galvanise their efforts towards promoting indigenous innovation, SICCI-SIIC Launchpad Competition “SICCI-SIIC INNOVATION LAUNCHPAD” held a start-up pitch competition on a virtual platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SICCI + SIIC (IIT Kanpur) = tied-up to provide a gateway of opportunities to tech-based start-ups

46. A mission of the NASA called “Spatial Heterodyne Interferometric Emission Line Dynamics Spectrometer” (SHIELDS) has lifted off from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on April 19. SHIELDS will examine light from hydrogen atoms that originated in interstellar space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s “SHIELDS mission” lifted off from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958](#)

47. On April 26, Scientists have discovered the smallest-known black hole in the Milky Way galaxy and the closest to our solar system, named “Unicorn”. It is located about 1,500 light years from Earth. A luminous star called a ‘red giant’ orbits with the black hole in a so-called binary star system named “V723 Mon”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists discovered the smallest-known black hole in the Milky Way galaxy named “Unicorn”
- It is 1,500 light years away from Earth
- A luminous star orbits with the black hole named “V723 Mon”

48. On April 20, The US has launched “NROL-82” spy satellite into space from California. The satellite lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – launched “NROL-82” spy satellite into space from California
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

49. On April 25, Bharti-backed OneWeb has launched 36 new satellites from ‘Vostochny Cosmodrome’ in Russia for its Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation. It was launched by Arianespace Soyuz Rocket. This is OneWeb’s second launch in a five-launch program that will enable it to deliver connectivity solutions to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude by the middle of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OneWeb ([backed by Bharti Airtel](#)) – launched 36 new satellites from ‘Vostochny Cosmodrome’ in Russia
- [HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal](#)

50. On April 27, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed Single Crystal Blades that are used in helicopter engines and it has supplied 60 of them to the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for the company's indigenous helicopter development program. These blades are manufactured out of Nickel-based superalloys that are capable of withstanding high temperature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – developed Single Crystal Blades used in Helicopter Engines (manufactured by - Nickel-based superalloys)
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

51. On April 26, Microsoft and UK's Met Office have teamed up to build the world's most powerful supercomputer to forecast weather and climate-change. It is likely to be operational in 2022. Japan's Fujitsu Laboratories used the world's most powerful supercomputer, 'Fugaku' to develop an AI model to predict tsunami flooding. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft + Met Office (UK) = teamed up to build the World's most Powerful Supercomputer to forecast weather
- 'Fugaku' one of the world's most powerful supercomputer – used by Japan's Fujitsu Laboratories
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

52. On April 27, A community service centre called "Aditya-L1 Support Cell" has been set up at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) transit campus in Haldwani, Uttarakhand to bring all data on board India's first dedicated solar space mission to a single web-based interface. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The ISRO establishes "Aditya-L1 Support Cell" – at ARIES transit campus in Haldwani, Uttarakhand
- HQs of ARIES – Nainital, Uttarakhand | Director – Dr. Dipankar Banerjee
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

53. On April 27, A Chinese space mining start-up 'Origin Space' (based in Shenzhen) has launched into low Earth orbit a Robot Prototype called "NEO-01" that can scoop up debris left behind by other spacecraft with a big net. It will also peer into deep space to observe small celestial bodies. China has also launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Origin Space (China) – launched Robot Prototype called "NEO-01" that is capable of catching space debris with net
- China – also launched first 'Tianhe' core module of Tiangong space station
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

54. Two dung eating beetle species "Bolboceras bopdevense" & "Bolboceras trimbakense" have been newly discovered from Pune and Nashik in Maharashtra by the researchers from the Zoological Survey of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ZSI discovered two dung eating Beetle species – from Pune & Nashik in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – K Venkatraman

55. India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas, has added the 5th generation 'Python-5' Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in its Air-to-Air weapons capability. The trials conducted on April 27 at DRDO, Goa were also aimed to validate enhanced capability of the already integrated Derby Beyond Visual Range (BVR) AAM on Tejas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO conducted maiden trial of 'Python-5' Air to Air missile – at Goa
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



56. On April 27, Researchers at Tufts University have developed robots from stem cells of frogs. These robots are named “Xenobots” and they can self-heal after damage, record memories and work together in groups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers at Tufts University developed robots named “Xenobots” from stem cells of frogs
- [Location of Tufts University – Massachusetts, US](#)

57. On April 29, Indian Scientists from ICAR-New Delhi have developed a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean. This newly developed variety called “MACS 1407” is suitable for cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states and its seeds will be made available to farmers for sowing during the ‘2022 Kharif season’. MACS 1407 require an average 43 days for 50 % flowering and take 104 days to mature from the date of sowing. Soyabean is a crop grown in the Kharif Season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Scientists (ICAR-New Delhi) – developed “MACS 1407” - a high-yielding & pest-resistant variety of ‘Soybean’
- It is suitable for cultivation in – Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & North-Eastern states

58. On April 30, IIT Bombay has converted existing Nitrogen plant into Oxygen generator. The oxygen generated by this plant at IIT-Bombay lab was tested and found to be 93-96% pure and at 3.5 atmospheric pressure. The pilot project was aimed at finding quick and easy solutions to the severe oxygen shortage in medical facilities across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Bombay – converted existing Nitrogen plant into Oxygen generator
- Quality of Oxygen generated by this plant at IIT Bombay: 93-96% pure & at 3.5 atmospheric pressure

59. On April 27, Twitter has decided to add a new a ‘Fact Box’ feature on users’ timelines to help promote the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination effort. The new feature will provide people around the world with the latest vaccine information in their particular country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Twitter – to add a ‘Fact Box’ feature on users’ timelines to help promote the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination effort
- [HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, USA | CEO – Jack Dorsey | Founded in – 2006](#)



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. The President had promulgated the “Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021” for providing pre-packaged resolution for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for maximum defaults up to Rs 1 Cr. The government has set the minimum default threshold for initiation of pre-packaged insolvency resolution process by a MSME corporate debtor at Rs 10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pre-packaged insolvency resolution for MSMEs: Minimum default threshold – Rs 10 lakh | Maximum – Rs 1 Cr
- Maximum time limit for completion of the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) – 330 days

2. The Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021, issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, was notified on April 4. The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur. The Government of India began the process of rationalisation of tribunals in 2015. The Tenure of Chairperson of a Tribunal has been fixed for a term of 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Law & Justice – issued “Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation & Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021”
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Constituency – Patna Sahib, Bihar)
- President of India can promulgate ordinance – under Article 123

3. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, has come into effect from April 27. According to this Act, the ‘Government’ in Delhi is the ‘Lieutenant Governor’. Lieutenant Governor should be informed for all Executive Actions in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to GNCTD Act: “Lieutenant Governor” should be informed for all Executive Actions in Delhi
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



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