



CURRENT AFFAIRS – APRIL (1 - 30), 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **'AI- For - India 1.0'**
 - ✓ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras-incubated, startup - to conduct the world's largest ever 'online' coding workshop.
 - ✓ They will also get free access to GUVI's Python course
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**
 - ✓ 'Superstar' Rajinikanth - was conferred Indian cinema's top honour.
 - ✓ This was informed by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on April
- **Compulsory paid holiday- on 6th April**
 - ✓ The State government - has announced compulsory paid holiday to all the workers on April 6 in view of the Tamil-Nadu legislative assembly elections.
 - ✓ The paid holiday is to enable public to cast their vote on the Election Day.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Chennai police have issued prohibitory orders barring any assembly or meeting in public places from April 1 to 30 under Section 144 of CrPC.
- **The State Express Transport Corporation**
 - ✓ Tamilnadu to operate germ-protected air-conditioned bus this summer to counter the Covid-19 pandemic fears among travellers

- ✓ In this regard, the SETC has upgraded 20 air-conditioned buses in Chennai
- ✓ In these buses, the SETC has installed multi-stage air filters and disinfection systems using Ultraviolet Controlled (UVC) sterilization to prevent the entry of virus, bacteria and other microorganisms.
- **"No helmet, No parking"**
 - ✓ The Greater Chennai traffic police - have implemented "no helmet, no parking" rule across all police stations in the city.
 - ✓ This rule is not only applicable in police stations but is all set to be followed in all government buildings soon.
- **The Assembly elections in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry - to be held in a single phase**
 - ✓ As per the latest data, the state has 6.28 crore voters, including 3.09 crore male and 3.19 crore female voters and 7,192 of the third gender.
 - ✓ The ruling AIADMK and its arch-rival, the DMK are in a direct contest in 131 seats
 - ✓ A total of 3,998 candidates are in the fray for the 234 seats for the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
- **Estimates from the Election Commission**
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu - recorded 71.79% voter turnout at the end of 12-hour polling in 234 constituencies on April as per the preliminary estimates from the Election Commission
 - ✓ Kallakurichi district topped the list with a voter turnout of 78%, followed by Namakkal (77.91%), Ariyalur (77.88%), Karur 77.6%, Dharmapuri 77.23% and Perambalur 77.08%.
 - ✓ Tirunelveli 65.16%, Coimbatore 66.98%, Ramanathapuram 67.16% and Tirupur 67.48%.

- ✓ Even Madurai 68.14%, Kanyakumari 68.41%, Sivaganga 68.49%, Tiruvallur 68.73% and the Nilgiris 69.24% failed to cross the 70% mark.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Voter Turnout Highest and Lowest**

	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES	DISTRICT	TURNOUT
Highest	Palacode	Dharmapuri	87.33%
	Kulithalai	Karur	86.15%
	Edappadi	Salem	85.6%
Lowest	Villivakkam	Chennai	55.52%

➤ **Sati stone - Tirupur- recently**

- ✓ A Sati stone, which is believed to be at least 300 years old - has been unearthed in Tirupur recently
- ✓ The woman was identified as the hero's wife and was ready to commit Sati.

➤ **Mettur Sarabanga lift irrigation project**

- ✓ Project Name: NGT Mettur Sarabanga Irrigation
- ✓ Ground water level in the region - Below 300m
- ✓ Surplus water to be used 555 mcft for 30 days
- ✓ Status of Project During NGT Panel inspection construction of Pump houses 50%
- ✓ Laying Pipelines 44% to 93 %
- ✓ Electrical Work 50%

➤ **'The eplane company'**

- ✓ A IIT Madras incubated startup, 'The ePlane Company' - has designed an electric flying taxi to transport people in the urban areas

➤ **Granite Plough**

- ✓ The three-sided granite plough is indicative of the fact that the people of Keeladi were engaged in farming

➤ **Chennai - Vladivostok**

- ✓ The new sea link, conceived two years ago, will link both the ports via the Straits of Malacca and South China Sea, covering ports in Malaysia, Philippines and South Korea

➤ **Thajavurnayaka Era stone inscription**

- ✓ A stone inscription back to thanjavurnayak era measuring 3.5 ft
- ✓ Of 16 century discovered.
- ✓ This inscription speaks about sevvapanayakasregime, relocation of **singaperumal temple**.

➤ **A 17th century stone inscription - 'Udaiya Nayan'**

- ✓ A 17th century stone inscription - was discovered in Ramanathapuram district during the desilting of a tank
- ✓ The lines were inscribed in the Tamil year of Sarvathari on the 14th day of the month of Aani.
- ✓ This timeframe can be compared to AD 1648
- ✓ It is called the donation of Ayiraveli and a village of the same name exists near Pattamangalam
- ✓ 'Thugavoorutaiyan Ponni Ataiappar Udaiya Nayan' may refer to the name of a royal representative of the Sethupathi kings from Kaliyaneri.
- ✓ Koothan Sethupathi and Thalavai Sethupathi were also known by the adjective 'Udaiya Nayan'
- ✓ The Shiva temple, in front of which this tank exists, was constructed around the 13th century in late Pandiya period architecture.

➤ **Groundwater quality in Chennai**

- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW) at IIT Madras - have launched a pilot project to map the groundwater quality in Chennai.
- ✓ The ICCW is also developing miniature device to test the quality of the tap water and treated sewage water.
- ✓ The Centre will give early warning in case of any water borne diseases.

➤ **Chennai -kanya kumara industrial corriodor (CKIC)**

- ✓ The Asian development bank -has recently approved \$484 million grant for Chennai -kanya kumara industrial corriodor(CKIC) in tamilnadu

➤ **New Species of Butterfly Discovered**

- ✓ A new sub - species of six line blue butterfly named “Nacaduba Sibhalarama swami Sadasivan” was discovered from south Western Ghats.
- ✓ The discovery of the species in Agasthyamala

STATES

➤ **Orissa - 2nd Bio sphere reserve**

- ✓ Earlier, the protected archeological remains of Mahendragiri were listed in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, thereby making it easier to declare as a biosphere reserve.
- ✓ The rich flora in Mahendragiri represents 40% of the reported flora of Odisha, consisting of around 1,358 species of plants.

➤ **Solar Project near Union Territory of Ladakh**

- ✓ Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council signed land agreement with SECI, the central agency implementing the National Solar Mission, for the solar project of 50-megawatt capacity

- ✓ The project, aiming to provide carbon-neutral status to the Union Territory, will supply power at ₹2 per unit, among the cheapest in the country
- ✓ The project will end supply disruption in Leh region and replace 40 MW imported from the national grid through a single transmission line.
- **The dolphin population in Odisha**
 - ✓ In Bhitarkanika National Park, 342 dolphins – including 39 Irrawaddy dolphins, 22 bottlenose dolphins and 281 humpback dolphins were spotted in 2021
 - ✓ The 2021 dolphin census report also revealed that Gahiramatha located within Bhitarkanika National Park is the home of the state's largest population of dolphins.
- **Rajasthan becomes 1st State to commission Farm Based Solar Power Project under PM - KUSUM Scheme**
 - ✓ On April 1, 2021, Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) commissioned India's 1st Farm - based Solar Power Project under the PM - KUSUM (PradhanMantri - Kisan Urja Surakshaevam Utthan Mahabhiyan) scheme at Bhaloji village, Kotputi in Jaipur, Rajasthan

NATIONAL

- **SUPACE - AI driven Research Portal of Supreme Court of India**
 - ✓ On 6th April 2021, the chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde launched "Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency (SUPACE)" an Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven tool,
 - ✓ which is 1st of its kind in the World that collects relevant facts and laws related to the case, thereby easing the research process for Judges.

- ✓ Efficient use of AI for collecting information related to the case, to reduce the workload of Judges.
- **India - opens up Covid-19 vaccination for all citizens aged above 45 from April 1**
 - ✓ Of this, more than three crore were first doses to people above 60, whereas 76.7 lakh people aged between 45 and 60 with co-morbidities received the vaccine.
- **The Union cabinet - approved a Rs 10,900 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the food processing industry**
 - ✓ According to the government, the first component under the scheme relates to incentivising manufacturing of four major food product segments – ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat foods, processed fruits and vegetables, marine products and mozzarella cheese
- **Coal-based power plants to adopt new emission standards**
 - ✓ The coal-based power plants in comparatively lesser polluting areas will have time period up to three years for complying with the new emission norms
 - ✓ Further, the new norms have also allowed the defaulters to continue their operations after paying penalty if they miss the new timelines.
- **National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 (NPRD)**
 - ✓ **The Centre - has notified the policy that provides financial support of up to ₹20 lakh under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for the treatment of rare diseases (RD) listed under group 1**
 - ✓ The financial assistance would be provided to all BPL families for their treatment in government tertiary hospitals.

- ✓ Further, the beneficiaries would also include those falling under the eligibility norms of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, thereby covering about 40% of the population
- ✓ Rare diseases impact about 7 crore Indians
- **Indian railways -highest ever electrification**
 - ✓ The Indian Railways - has achieved the highest ever electrification of sections during 2020-21.
 - ✓ India uses 25 KV 50 Hz AC traction on its electrified tracks, while DC traction is used for metros.
 - ✓ The first railway electrification in India began between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and Kurla in 1925
 - ✓ The Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) is the centralised agency for railway electrification of Indian Railways.
 - ✓ Electric Locomotives are mainly manufactured in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works located in West Bengal
- **Education Minister launches “MyNEP2020” portal launched for Digital Consultation**
 - ✓ Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank’ launched the “MYNEP2020” platform for receiving digital consultation from various stakeholders for preparing a draft of 2 policy related to Teachers skill development
 - ✓ “MYNEP2020” web portal of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) will be operational from April 1 to May 15, 2021.
- **SARATHI Portal**
 - ✓ The Ministry of Road Transport – has created the National Register for Driving Licenses to eradicate duplication of driving licenses in the country.

- ✓ The states which are already on the SARATHI portal of National Informatics Centre have been instructed to migrate to the newly created national register.

➤ **The TRIFED**

- ✓ The TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited), Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Government of India - have launched two contests for the tribal people.
- ✓ They are “Be the Brand Ambassador of Tribes India” and “Be a Friend of TRIBES INDIA” contest
- ✓ Tribes constitute about 8% of Indian population
- ✓ Van Dhan Samajik Doori Jagrookta Abhiyan was launched in association with UNICEF to educate the tribal population in Covid-19 related safety measures.

➤ **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**

- ✓ Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS) and NITI Aayog - have announced collaboration to reinforce entrepreneurship and innovation in the area of public system.
- ✓ The CIPS and AIM will organise round table meetings involving local level administration officials to create awareness about the innovative products and solutions.
- ✓ They will together host e-exhibitions supported by relevant startups to showcase their innovations
- ✓ Further, the tie-up aims to create an ‘Innovative Learning Management System’ to promote innovative learning to teachers, students and mentors at grass root levels.

➤ **India H2 Alliance**

- ✓ Energy giant, Reliance industries and Chart Industries - have jointly initiated an energy transition coalition 'India H2 Alliance' on April
- ✓ The new alliance is dedicated to commercialising hydrogen technologies and systems, thereby encouraging the construction of net-zero carbon pathways in the country

➤ **Hydrogen Policy and roadmap for the period 2021-30**

- ✓ To create National Hydrogen Task Force and Mission in a Public-Private partnership model To identify National Large Demonstration Stage Projects
- ✓ To create National Hydrogen Fund.
- ✓ To create hydrogen linked capacity involving production, distribution,
- ✓ storage, industrial use-cases, standards and transport use-cases.
- ✓ Blue Hydrogen is produced from the splitting of natural gas into carbon dioxide and hydrogen
- ✓ Green Hydrogen is made from non-fossil sources.

➤ **National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules**

- ✓ The scheme is called the "National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules".
- ✓ The new scheme aims to promote 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and reduce the dependence on imports of solar PV cells and modules.

➤ **Madhukranti Portal**

- ✓ The Union Agricultural and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar - launched the Madhukranti portal and Honey Corners of NAFED in New Delhi

- ✓ This portal is being developed for online registration to achieve a traceability source of honey and other beehive products on a digital platform
- ✓ The government has launched National Beekeeping and Honey Mission to boost the scientific bee keeping and honey production in the country.

➤ **MOFPI - Micro Food Processing Enterprises**

- ✓ The scheme is to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- ✓ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAYNRLM) operating under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is to work with the MoFPI to implement the scheme.
- ✓ Under the scheme, a seed capital support of Rs. 40,000 will be provided to the Self-Help Group members.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to micro processing units functioning in the unorganized sector.
- ✓ The scheme focuses on women entrepreneurs and aspirational districts.

➤ **Anamaya the Tribal Health Collaborative**

- ✓ The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan and the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda - jointly launched 'Anamaya', the Tribal Health Collaborative on April 07 through video conference.

➤ **TikaUtsav - Vaccine festival**

- ✓ The main objective of the festival is to vaccinate as many people as possible and focus on zero wastage of the anti-Covid-19 vaccine.
- ✓ Currently, three states - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat - are receiving maximum number of vaccine doses.
- ✓ The Centre has planned to cover 250 million people included in "high priority" category by July 2021 under its vaccination programme.

➤ **'PoshanGyan'**

- ✓ NITI Aayog - launches 'Poshan Gyan', a national digital repository on health and nutrition
- ✓ It has been launched in association with the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on April 13, 2021
- ✓ The materials held by Poshan Gyan cover wide range of topics such as complementary feeding, antenatal care, adolescent health, anaemia prevention, diet diversity, etc

➤ **AahaarKranti**

- ✓ The motto of the mission is **"Good Diet-Good Cognition"**.
- ✓ Malnutrition is the major contributing factor to one-third child deaths in the country.
- ✓ Apart from children, 23% of women and 20% of men in the country are malnourished.

➤ **Digital farming**

- ✓ In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture has signed anMoU with Microsoft India to develop farmers' interface for post-harvest management and distribution.
- ✓ The project aims to reduce input costs for farmers and make farming easy.
- ✓ Microsoft India has joined its local partner, Crop Data, to do the pilot projects in 100 villages across 10 districts in six states.
- ✓ Digital technology and data will be used to assist farmers in taking right and cost-effective decisions.

➤ **Gender samvaad**

- ✓ The Ministry of Rural Development - recently conducted the Gender Samvaad event to create awareness on gender related interventions under the DAY-NRLM on April
- ✓ It is a joint initiative between DAY-NRLM and IWWAGE.
- ✓ DAY-NRLM is 'DeendayalAntyodayaYojana National Rural Livelihood Mission'.
- ✓ IWWAGE stands for 'Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy'.

➤ **Eatsmart cities**

- ✓ The main objective of the EatSmart Cities Challenge is to create an environment of right food practices and habits

➤ **National Startup Advisory Council on April**

- ✓ Unicorns are startups that have a market valuation of at least 1 billion USD.
- ✓ The Centre had launched Startup India in 2016 to build a strong ecosystem for the growth of startups in the country

➤ **The "Tribunal Reforms Ordinance 2021"**

- ✓ **The ordinance dissolved appellate tribunals under the following nine acts:**
- ✓ Cinematograph Act, 1952
- ✓ Copyrights Act, 1957
- ✓ Trade Marks Act, 1999
- ✓ Customs Act, 1962
- ✓ Airports Authority of India Act, 1994
- ✓ Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- ✓ Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002

- ✓ Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001
- ✓ Patents Act, 1970
- **NIXI Academy, IP Guru and NIXI-IP-INDEX**
 - ✓ National Internet Exchange of India has launched these initiatives to educate technical and non-technical people about the next-generation Internet Protocol standard, IPv6
 - ✓ IP Guru is a group that will extend support to all Indian entities, which are finding it technically challenging to migrate and adopt IPv6
 - ✓ NIXI Academy has been created to educate technical and non-technical people in India about technologies like IPv6 for better management of internet resources in the country.
- **“Vivad se Vishwas’**
 - ✓ Tax amnesty scheme ‘Vivad se Vishwas’ is one of the most successful direct tax dispute resolution schemes
 - ✓ Taxpayers who had already made declarations within the stipulated deadline of March 31, can make payment without paying any additional amount or penalty up to June 30.
- **Oxygen Express**
 - ✓ Indian Railways - said that nearly 150 tonnes of medical oxygen has been delivered by operating Oxygen Express in different parts of the country.
 - ✓ These Oxygen Express trains are operated to help the country handle the issue of shortage of oxygen.
 - ✓ To tackle the crisis, the government is to set up 162 Oxygen plants in thirty-two states using the PM-CARES funding.

- **The IIT Kharagpur - has successfully commercialised the diagnostic technology called 'COVIRAP' to detect Covid-19 virus**
 - ✓ The technology is also capable of testing influenza, dengue, malaria, tuberculosis and Japanese Encephalitis along with other vector borne diseases.
 - ✓ Costing only Rs. 500, the device will minimise the need for real time PCR machines and also for thermal cyclers COVIRAP is a cuboid shaped portable testing device that can deliver the results within an hours
 - ✓ It can conduct the Covid-19 test using a swab sample and does not require a separate facility for RNA extraction.

SCHEMES

- **'SWAMITVA' SCHEME**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch the distribution of e-property cards under the 'SWAMITVA" scheme' on April on the eve of National Panchayati Raj Day
 - ✓ The scheme seeks to map residential land ownership in the rural sector using modern technology like using the drones to create a non-disputable record
 - ✓ Under the scheme, property records will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.
 - ✓ These accurate property documents will enable villagers to access bank finance using their property as collateral
 - ✓ The scheme will cover around 6.62 lakh villages of the entire country during 2021- 2025

COURT VERDICT

- **On april20 , the supreme court -activates the article 224A for the first time.**
 - ✓ The Apex court allowed High court chief justices to start appointing retired high court judges as adhoc judges for two to five years under this article 224A of the constitution .
 - ✓ Article 224A was included in original constitution. But was deleted in 1956 and was re-introduced in 1963 only.
- **On April 27, the supreme court -permitted Vedanta**
 - ✓ The supreme court -permitted Vedanta to operate its oxygen production plant at Sterlite copper smelting unit in Tuticorin

COMMITTEES

- **NGT - National Green Tribunal**
 - ✓ The national task force (NTF) will also monitor enforcement of air quality standards in other identified air polluted areas, beyond NACs, where air quality is poor.
 - ✓ The tribunal also asked the NTF to see whether a 'National Air Quality Atlas' may be created by classifying cities or districts in terms of air quality in different categories such as 'red', 'orange' and 'green' for taking prioritised pollution abatement measures.
 - ✓ The 124 NACs are those which did not meet the national ambient air quality standards during 2014-19.
 - ✓ The Centre has proposed a commission on air quality management (CAQM) through an ordinance in tackling the pollution problem in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **'Carnivac - Cov'**

- ✓ The trial tests showed that the new vaccine generated antibodies against the virus in dogs, cats, foxes and mink.
- ✓ The mass production of the vaccine is expected to start in April

➤ **"NIMBUS"**

- ✓ Israel - has announced the launch of 'Nimbus' Project at an estimated cost of \$1 billion.

➤ **Blue Nature Alliance**

- ✓ A new global partnership 'Blue Nature Alliance' - has been launched on April, to restore 5% or 18 million square kilometers of World Ocean in five years.

➤ **Python - 5 Israeli short range missile**

- ✓ The DRDO - test-fired successfully the Israeli short-range weapon Python-5 air-to-air missile from the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft at Goa.

➤ **'Tiangong'-chinese space station**

- ✓ China - launched an unmanned module for its proposed permanent space station called 'Tiangong'
- ✓ China plans to complete its own space station by the end of 2022
- ✓ The module, named "Tianhe", or "Harmony of the Heavens", was launched on the Long March 5B, China's largest carrier rocket, from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan.

➤ **'ShantirOgroshena 2021'**

- ✓ India Participates in Multinational Military Exercise 'ShantirOgroshena 2021' held in Bangladesh.

- ✓ Theme - 'Robust Peacekeeping Operations'
- ✓ To strengthen the procedures and enhance interoperability among neighbourhood Countries (Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh)

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **Road infrastructure in the Nepal Terai**

- ✓ The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu - informed that the Indian Government has provided Nepali Rs. 800 crores of grant assistance for strengthening road infrastructure in the Terai region in Nepal.
- ✓ These roads are also called Hulaki Rajmarg and they connect major towns located on the East-West highway with the border of India and Nepal.

➤ **Seychelles archipelago**

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan - will jointly inaugurate a range of Indian projects in the **Seychelles archipelago** on April 8.
- ✓ The virtual event will see inauguration of a new magistrates' court building in Seychelles, handing over of a fast patrol vessel to Seychelles Coast Guard, handing over of a 1 mw solar power plant and 10 high impact community development projects (HICDPs).
- ✓ The 1Mw ground-mounted solar power plant on Romainville Island of Seychelles was completed as part of the 'Solar PV Democratisation Project' being implemented in Seychelles by India under grant assistance.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **BASIC Ministerial meeting**
 - ✓ India - hosted the 30th BASIC ministerial meeting, chaired by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, on April
 - ✓ During the meeting, the BASIC nations - Brazil, South Africa, India and China - have jointly opposed the European Union's move to introduce 'carbon border tax' as part of its green push
 - ✓ The European Union is planning to impose a 'carbon border tax' (carbon border adjustment) on imports in order to force emerging economies to adopt cleaner (non-fossil fuel-based) practices to manufacture goods.
- **The Raisina Dialogue 2021**
 - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 2021 "Raisina Dialogue", through video-conferencing.
 - ✓ The Raisina Dialogue 2021 is the sixth edition of the annual dialogue, organised from April 13 to 16, 2021, in full digital form for the first time due to the coronavirus pandemic.
 - ✓ The theme for the 2021 conference is "Viral World: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control".
- **'India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership'**
 - ✓ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced the launch of the**
 - ✓ **'India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership'**
 - ✓ The India-US collaboration on clean energy is expected to play an important role in helping India fulfill its ambitious renewable energy goal of reaching 450 GW by 2030.
 - ✓ Under the new commitment, President Joe Biden pledged to cut US greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52% by 2030

- ✓ During the summit, around 101 Nobel Laureates, including Buddhist leader Dalai Lama, made a call to sign up a “Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty”

DEFENCE

- **New Lightweight bullet - Proof Jacket (BJP)**
 - ✓ It has developed a new lightweight bullet-proof jacket (BPJ), which weighs 9kg, to meet the qualitative requirements of the 13-lakh strong Army
 - ✓ The new jacket was developed by the Kanpur-based Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment, a DRDO laboratory
 - ✓ India exports bulletproof jackets to 18 countries
- **Hydrographic Survey**
 - ✓ INS Sarvekshak, a hydrographic survey ship - is to conduct joint hydrographic surveys in Mauritius along with the support of Mauritian authorities.
- **“Khanjar”**
 - ✓ India and Kyrgyzstan - commenced the 8th edition of a joint Special Forces Military Exercise - the “Khanjar” - on April 16

ECONOMICS

- **GST collection 1.23 lakh crore in March**
 - ✓ The Finance Ministry - reported an all-time high collection of Goods & Services Tax (GST) at over ₹1.23 lakh crores in March 2021, since the GST regime was introduced in July 2017
 - ✓ The CGST collections in the month stood at ₹22,973 crore, SGST ₹29,329 crore, IGST ₹62,842 crore and Cess at ₹8,757 crore

- ✓ Big contributor such as Maharashtra registered a growth of 14%, while Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Delhi saw an increase of 20%, 11%, 23%, 17% and 20% respectively

➤ **International Monetary Fund - growth projection**

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - raised India's growth projections for 2021-22 to 12.5% from its January estimate of 11.5%, making it the fastest growing major economy in the world.

➤ **Methods of RBI to Inflation Control**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has announced a government securities acquisition programme (G-SAP 1.0) on April 7
- ✓ Under the programme, the RBI has committed to buy bonds worth Rs 1 lakh crore in the first quarter.
- ✓ The first purchase of Rs 25,000 crore is to be made on April 15, 2021.
- ✓ This unprecedented step has been taken to keep interest rates in check to support growth.
- ✓ The RBI clarified that the G-SAP will run alongside other instruments, namely longer term repo/reverse repo auctions, forex operations, operation twist, and other open market operations.

➤ **-Venture capital-Amazon**

- ✓ Amazon - has set up a \$250- million venture fund in India to digitize local startups
- ✓ The retail giant aims for e - commerce exports worth \$ 10 billion, besides creating 1 million additional jobs in India between 2020 and 2025
- ✓ It has exported \$3 billion worth of local goods to its overseas markets, largely the US.

➤ **Russia - plans to send three missions to the Moon in the next four years**

- ✓ Lunar-A was the proposed orbiter of Luna 25 mission.

- ✓ It will carry 30 kg of scientific instruments including a robotic arm and drilling hardware to collect soil samples.
- ✓ It will study the exosphere around the south pole of the moon, where no spacecraft has reached till date.
- ✓ The project is financed by Roscosmos.
- **SaaS firm Charge bee**
 - ✓ Indian Startup Unicorns in 2021
 - ✓ Chargebee's customers are mainly from the US (50%) and Europe (40%)
- **Ed-tech major Byju's - is set to be the most valued internet startup in India at a valuation of \$16.5 billion soon**
 - ✓ It is set to overtake Soft-Bank and Alibaba-backed Paytm, which is valued at \$16 billion
 - ✓ Byju's is in advanced stages of talks to raise another \$150-\$200 million from UBS Group to take its valuation around \$16.5 billion.
 - ✓ At present, Byju's valuation is over \$15 billion from various new and existing investors
 - ✓ Byju's had raised \$1 billion in capital last year.

RANKINGS

- **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021**
 - ✓ India - has slipped 28 places to rank 140th among 156 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021
 - ✓ The country was ranked 112th among 153 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2020

APPOINTMENT

- **TAFE - CMD Mallika Srinivasan,**
 - ✓ She was appointed PSEB - chairperson, TAFE - CMD as PSEB chair
- **VenkataRamana, new 48th CJ**
 - ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind - appointed Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, the senior-most Supreme Court judge, as the next Chief Justice of India
- **New ONGC CMD**
 - ✓ Subhash Kumar - assumed additional charge as the Chairman-cum Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) following retirement of incumbent Shashi Shanker on April.
- **Tarun Bajaj**
 - ✓ The government - announced Tarun Bajaj as the new revenue secretary.
- **Former Chief secretary Girija Vaidyanathan**
 - ✓ She has been appointed expert member of the National Green Tribunal's Southern Zone (NGT-SZ) in Chennai.
- **Sushil Chandra - New CEC**
 - ✓ Sushil Chandra - was appointed as the New Chief Election Commissioner.
- **Bar Council of India (BCI)**
 - ✓ Mr. S. Prabakaran - was elected vice-chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI)
- **Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University.- Vice chancellor**
 - ✓ Governor Banwarilal Purohit - had appointed N S Santhosh Kumar vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University.

AWARDS

➤ AICTE lilavati awards, 2020 in New Delhi

- ✓ Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank - recently presented the AICTE Lilavati Awards, 2020 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The prize has been named after the twelfth century book called “Lilavati”, written by the Mathematician Bhaskara II.
- ✓ Lilavati was the daughter of Bhaskara II.
- ✓ **List of winners:**
- ✓ SWEAT (Sona Women Entrepreneurship and Training) from Sona College of Technology, Tamil Nadu won the award under the ‘Women Entrepreneurship’ sub theme.
- ✓ Another college from Tamil Nadu, Paritrana from St. Joseph’s College of Engineering won the award for the ‘Self Defense’ sub theme.

➤ Lawrence Gussman

- ✓ Professor Emeritus of Computer Science, Alfred V. Ahohas won the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award, known informally as the “Nobel Prize of computing.”

➤ 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2021) announced

- ✓ The 93rd Academy Awards ceremony, also known as the Oscars Award, took place in Los Angeles on April 25, 2021.
- ✓ American drama ‘Nomadland’ won most honours with three awards.
- ✓ Indian film personalities Irrfan Khan and Bhanu Athaiya were honoured in the “In Memoriam” montage showcased at the event.

✓ **List of Winners:**

1. Best Picture: Nomadland
2. Best Director: Chloe Zhao, Nomadland
3. Best Actress: Frances McDormand, Nomadland

4. Best Actor: Anthony Hopkins, the Father

PERSONALITIES

➤ SachaJafri

- ✓ Dubai-based British artist with Indian origins, SachaJafri - has donated the \$62 million he got for the 70 pieces of his painting to Dubai Cares, Unesco, Unicef and the Global Gift Foundation.
- ✓ Jafri has spent twenty hours a day for seven months for painting 'The Journey of Humanity', the world's largest painting on canvas and the second most expensive by a living artist.
- ✓ The painting will be housed in a museum 'Abdoune' in Dubai, Where he plans to fly in underprivileged children

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ Sputnik V vaccine shots in India

- ✓ In India, Dr Reddy's Laboratories is conducting bridging studies for the vaccine
- ✓ Dr Reddy's Laboratories has partnered Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) for conducting clinical trials of the vaccine candidate in India.
- ✓ Sputnik V was co-developed by RDIF and Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology
- ✓ Sputnik V is made up of two different viruses belonging to the adenovirus family, Ad26 and Ad5.

➤ Xenobots

- ✓ The scientists at Tufts University - have recently developed world's first 'living' and 'self healing' robots named 'Xenobots' by using the stem cells of frogs.

- ✓ The memory retaining capability of the Xenobots was assisted by a protein called EosFP
- **The four Indian astronaut-ejects - have successfully completed their Gaganyaan training in Russia and have arrived in Bengaluru**
- **Artemis-NASA**
 - ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – plans to land first person of colour and first woman on moon under its ‘Artemis’ programme
 - ✓ According to Nasa, the Artemis programme will serve as a proving ground for the returning astronauts to the Moon, who will later be sent to Mars
 - ✓ The programme is to be implemented in three parts – Artemis I, II and III
 - ✓ The first part is to be launched in 2021 as an unscrewed flight to test the space launch system and Orion spacecraft
 - ✓ The second part will be launched in 2023 as the first crewed flight test
 - ✓ The last part will land the astronauts on the lunar south pole by 2024
- **Dark Sirens**
 - ✓ The Dark Sirens are high-energy gravitational waves emitted from the smashing of neutron stars or black holes
- **Ingenuity mars helicopter**
 - ✓ On April 19, the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter - has successfully become the first aircraft in history to fly in another planet.
- **ROBO Plant**
 - ✓ The scientists from Singapore - have developed a technology to interact with plants using a technology called “Robo Plant”
 - ✓ The technology helps to control the plants using smart phone applications.

- ✓ In future, this technology can be further used to enable farmers to detect diseases in plants.
- ✓ The scientists developed the new technology by linking plants to electrodes.
- ✓ These electrodes were capable of monitoring weak electrical pulses that are naturally emitted by green plants.
- ✓ The scientists used the technology in a carnivorous plant, Venus Flytrap, which catches prey with a trapping structure
- ✓ The IUCN has put the plant under “Vulnerable” status.
- **The scientists from Aryabhata Research Institute - have discovered a new galaxy that emits gamma rays.**
- **Russia - plans to send three missions to the Moon in the next four years**
 - ✓ Lunar-A was the proposed orbiter of Luna 25 mission.
 - ✓ It will carry 30 kg of scientific instruments including a robotic arm and drilling hardware to collect soil samples. It will study the exosphere around the south pole of the moon, where no spacecraft has reached till date.
 - ✓ The project is financed by Roscosmos.
- **MOXIE**
 - ✓ MOXIE is Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilisation Experiment
 - ✓ MOXIE produced five grams of oxygen in its first run.
 - ✓ MOXIE is capable of generating ten grams of oxygen in one hour.
 - ✓ It was designed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).
 - ✓ According to the scientists at MIT, one ton version of MOXIE is capable of producing twenty-five tonnes of oxygen.

SPORTS

➤ Indian shooting team for the Tokyo games

- ✓ Tamil Nadu shooters Gaayathri and P ShriNivetha have been named in the reserve list of the Indian shooting team for the Tokyo Games
- ✓ ShriNivetha will feature in the women's 10m air pistol category while Gaayathri is part of the women's 50m rifle 3-position event.
- ✓ The final squad chosen for the Olympics comprises –

➤ Men

- ✓ 10m air rifle - Divyansh Singh Panwar, Deepak Kumar;
- ✓ 50m rifle 3 position - Sanjeev Rajput, AishwaryPratap Singh Tomar;
- ✓ 10m air pistol - SaurabhChaudhary, AbhishekVerma; Skeet - Angadvir Singh Bajwa, Mairaj Ahmad Khan.

➤ Women

- ✓ 10m air rifle - ApurviChandela, ElavenilValarivan;
- ✓ 50m rifle 3 position - AnjumMoudgil, TejaswiniSawant;
- ✓ 10m air pistol - Manu Bhaker, Yashaswini Singh Deswal;
- ✓ 25m sports pistol - RahiSarnobat, Manu Bhaker.

➤ Mixed

- ✓ 10m air rifle team - Divyansh Singh Panwar, ElavenilValarivan; Deepak Kumar, Anjum-Moudgil;
- ✓ 10m air pistol team - SaurabhChaudhary, Manu Bhaker; AbhishekVerma, Yashaswini Singh Deswal.

➤ Nethrakumanan

- ✓ First Indian women sailor to qualify for the Olympics
- ✓ **Four Indian sailors,**
- ✓ **NethraKumanan (Laser Radial Class),**
- ✓ **Vishnu Saravanan (Laser Standard),**

- ✓ **The duo of KC Ganapathy and**
- ✓ **VarunThakkar in men's 49er Class - qualified for the Tokyo Games.**
- **Anshu Malik and Sonam Malik**
 - ✓ India's young wrestlers Anshu Malik and Sonam Malik – qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, following impressive performances in the Asian Olympics qualifiers held at Almaty, Kazakhstan on April
- **SaritaMor - became the first Indian woman to win two consecutive gold medals in the Asian wrestling championships**
- **Deepak Punia and Sanjeet - settled for silver medal and bronze medal on the concluding day of the Asian Championship in Almaty on April**
- **Tamil Nadu's ArjunKalyan - became India's 68th Grandmaster**
 - ✓ The 18-year-old crossed the 2500 ELO mark in the 5th round of the ongoing GM Round Robin "Rujna Zora-3" tournament in Serbia.
- **PriyankaMohite**
 - ✓ 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
 - ✓ Mount Annapurna is a massif in the Himalayas located in Nepal that includes one peak over 8,000 metres and is considered to be one of the toughest mountains to climb.

OBITUARY

- **V.Anaimuthu (Periyar scholar - 96 years)**
 - ✓ Anaimuthu was an authoritative researcher on E V R Periyar and a voice on social justice
 - ✓ His book series 'Periyar E. Ve. Ra. Sinthanaigal (Thoughts of Periyar EVR), containing Periyar's speeches on various issues including social

welfare and social justice, remained a treasure for those who are researching Periyar.

- ✓ He founded the MarxiyaPeriyariyaPodhuvudamaiKatchi (Marxist Periyarist Communist Party) Anaimuthu had spread Periyar's ideas of social reforms through his magazine 'Sinthanaiyalan'.
- **Queen Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip - has died aged 99, as announced by the Buckingham Palace**
- **Celebrated Tamil actor Vivekh - passed away in Chennai after being hospitalized due to cardiac arrest on April 17**
 - ✓ Padma Shri awardee in the year 2009
 - ✓ The legendary 'Kalaivanar' NS Krishnan, he portrayed his brand of comedy through which he delivered social messages in a humorous way, and came to be addressed as Chinna Kalaivanar
 - ✓ The actor has been a life-long campaigner for planting trees through 'Green Kalam movement' (later changed to Green Globe), which he launched in 2010 under the guidance of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- **MaidavoluNarasimham – known as the father of “banking sector”“reforms in India” – passed away on April 20.**
 - ✓ Narasimham was a career central banker who moved to the finance ministry
 - ✓ As a senior RBI official, he influenced policy at the time of bank nationalisation in 1969 and authored a report in 1991 that paved the way for private banks.
 - ✓ The resilience of the Indian banking sector during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis is seen to have been an outcome of the reforms.

- ✓ He was again tasked with reviewing the progress of reforms in banking in 1998.
- ✓ It was his committee's recommendations that led to the implementation of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

IMPORTANT DAY

➤ World Health Day - April 7

- ✓ The day is celebrated every year by the World Health Organization
- ✓ **Theme 2021** - 'Building a fairer, healthier World for everyone'

➤ World Homeopathy Day - April 10

- ✓ The day's theme in India for this year is "Homeopathy: Roadmap for Integrative Medicine".

➤ Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on April 13th

- ✓ It took place on 13 April 1919 at Amritsar and is also known as the Amritsar massacre.
- ✓ On this day, British troops under the Command of Gen Dyer fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in Amritsar in Punjab of India.
- ✓ Several hundred peoples were killed and many hundreds were wounded.

➤ BhimJayanti - April 14

- ✓ The Day is celebrated as 'Equality Day' as Ambedkar fought for equality throughout his life
- ✓ He was the force behind the Dalit Buddhist Movement in India and served as the country's first Minister of Law and Justice.
- ✓ In 1932, he signed Poona Pact with Madan Mohan Malaviya.
- ✓ Ambedkar founded Independent Labour Party in 1936 and converted to Buddhish in the year 1956

- ✓ The period between April 14, 1990 and April 14, 1991 was observed as “Year of Social Justice”
- **World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites) - April 18**
 - ✓ The day aims to preserve human heritage, vulnerability and diversity of the world monuments and historical sites
 - ✓ **Theme 2021** – “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures”
 - ✓ The World Heritage sites are maintained by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee under the World Heritage Programme
- **National Civil Services Day - April 21**
 - ✓ Sardar Vallabhai Patel often referred the Indian Administrative Service as “Steel Frame of India”.
 - ✓ The first National Civil Service Day function was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on April 21, 2006
- **World Earth Day - April 22**
 - ✓ The day aims to create awareness about protecting the environment and focus on the need for conservation
 - ✓ **Theme 2021** - “Restore our Earth”.
- **National Panchayati Raj Day - April 24**
 - ✓ The day aims to recognise and felicitate our Panchayats and to appreciate their leaders for their work towards building an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.
- **World Intellectual Property Day on April 26th**
 - ✓ **Theme:** “Intellectual property and small businesses: Taking big ideas to market”
- **Ayushman Bharat Diwas - April 30**
 - ✓ Theme – “SevaBhi - RozgarBhi”
 - ✓ The scheme has fixed a target of 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centre by 2022.