

Weekly Current Affairs 1st Week of April 2021



1. Indian Navy to take part in French Naval Exercise in Bay of Bengal along with other QUAD member countries

- **India will participate in France-led naval drill La Perouse for the first time in the Bay of Bengal next month. Australia, Japan and the US will also participate in La Perouse, but India's first-ever participation is seen as a significant step.** The exercise is scheduled between April 5 and 7.
- **After La Perouse, another important naval exercise, the India-French Varuna exercise, will also take place.** This time, it will also include the United Arab Emirates.
- The strategic relationship between France and India, which has been on an upward trajectory ever since France was supportive of India's nuclear tests in 1998 when most of the western world's first reaction was to impose sanctions, has expanded considerably in the last two decades.

2. 6th round of India-Australia Dialogue on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation & Export Control takes place virtually

- The **sixth round of India-Australia Dialogue on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control** was held today virtually. The two sides exchanged views on contemporary issues of mutual interest in the areas of **nuclear, chemical, biological disarmament and non-proliferation, conventional weapons, outer space security and strategic export control.**
- The dialogue facilitated enhanced mutual understanding and appreciation of national perspectives and global developments on non-proliferation and disarmament issues that will contribute to the **India- Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.**

3. India, US agree to revamp Strategic Energy Partnership

- **Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and US Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm have agreed to revamp India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).** Mr Pradhan held an introductory meeting virtually with her yesterday and reviewed the SEP. **The two leaders agreed to revamp the India-US SEP to reflect the new priorities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden with focus on promoting clean energy with low-carbon pathways and accelerating green energy cooperation. During the meeting, they also agreed to prioritise greater collaboration in cleaner energy sector and joint R&D through Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Research among other initiatives.**
- Besides, both sides agreed to convene the third meeting of a revamped India-US SEP at an early date. **They decided to intensify the efforts to take advantage of the complementarities of both the countries-advanced US technologies and rapidly growing India's energy market, for a win-win situation through a cleaner energy route with low carbon pathways.**

4. Suez Canal reopens after giant stranded ship is freed

- The giant container ship "Ever Given" that blocked traffic in the **Suez Canal** for the last week resumed its journey, **after being successfully refloated.** The efforts to float the delinquent Panamanian container ship Ever Given are successful.
- **The 1,400-foot-long cargo ship jammed diagonally across a southern section of the Suez Canal, leaving a total of 367 ships, including dozens of container ships and bulk carriers, unable to use the key trading route.**

5. US President Biden invites PM Modi to Leaders Summit on Climate



- President **Joe Biden** has invited **40 world leaders**, including Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, to a US-hosted virtual summit on climate next month to underscore the urgency and the economic benefits of stronger climate action.
- Biden will host a two-day climate summit of world leaders starting on **Earth Day, April 22**, in which he will outline the US goal for reductions of carbon emissions by 2030, known as the nationally determined contribution under the historic Paris accord.
- The White House said a total of 40 world leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, Chinese President **Xi Jinping** and Russian President **Vladimir Putin**, were invited to the conference, which will be live-streamed to the public.

6. Nagaland Health Minister launches 'i-Learn' for Community Health Officers

- **Nagaland** Health and Family Welfare Minister, **S Pangnyu Phom** has launched **i-Learn**, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers, CHOs in the state at his office chamber in **Kohima**. The state government launched the i-Learn application in partnership with **USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiego** which will cater across the 189 Health & wellness centres in the state.

7. Mahinder Giri, range officer won the International Ranger Award

- Union Minister for Environment has congratulated Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve for being the only ranger from Asia to win the prestigious International Ranger Award for his contribution towards conservation.
- The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas WCPA.
- Developed through a collaboration between the IUCN WCPA, the International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies, these awards, created in 2020, aim to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.

8. Sanjeev Kumar appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India

- **Sanjeev Kumar** has been appointed as the chairman of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**
- He is a **1993 batch IAS officer** from Maharashtra cadre
- He succeeded Arvind Singh, which was recently appointed tourism secretary.
- **AAI**: Statutory body working under Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India.
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi
- **Founded**: 1 April 1995

9. Asha Bhosle to be honoured with 'Maharashtra Bhushan'

- Maharashtra government has selected singer Asha Bhosle for the Maharashtra Bhushan award 2020
- She has been selected by a committee chaired by CM **Uddhav Thackeray**
- **Maharashtra Bhushan award**
 - Maharashtra govt's highest honour.
 - It was instituted in 1996 to recognise distinguished work and achievements of eminent persons from the State, representing different walks of life
 - It carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.
- **Lata Mangeshkar** won the award for 1997



10. Saurabh Garg appointed As Senior Aadhar Body UIDAI Chief

- Senior IAS officer **Saurabh Garg** (1991 batch IAS officer) has been appointed as **Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre
- As part of a major bureaucratic rejig, **22 bureaucrats** have been assigned different ministries
- **Atish Chandra** has been appointed as Chairman and MD of **Food Corporation of India**,
- **Chandrashekhar Mohapatra** as additional secretary of the **GST Council Secretariat**.

11. Noted journalist and author Anil Dharker passes away

- Noted journalist and author **Anil Dharker (74-years)** passed away in Mumbai.
- He was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival.
- Dharker had been the editor of a variety of publications, starting with 'Debonair', 'Mid-Day'; '**The Independent**' and 'The Illustrated Weekly of India'.
- He was a columnist for The Indian Express newspaper and has authored '**The Romance Of Salt**', a book on Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March.
- Dharker had also worked as a **TV show producer**

12. Indo-Korean Friendship Park Inaugurated

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Minister of National Defence of South Korea **Suh Wook** has inaugurated the Indo-Korean friendship park at Delhi cantonment.
- It has been built to commemorate the contribution of the Indian peacekeeping force during the Korean war of 1950-53
- South Korea has been a major supplier of weapons and military equipment to India.
- Korean Defence Minister was on a three-day visit with a focus on boosting bilateral defence and military cooperation.

13. Ramesh Pokhriyal launches CBSE Assessment Framework

- Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has launched **CBSE Assessment Framework** for science, maths and English classes
- This is a suggested competency-based assessment framework to strengthen the **existing school education system** for secondary level (**classes 6-10**).
- It is a part of the **CBSE Competency-Based Education Project** to replace the **existing rote learning model** with a competency-based framework as directed in the **NEP 2020** over the next 2-3 years

14. BCAS signs agreement with Yamuna International Airport

- **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** has signed a **Letter of Agreement** with **Yamuna International Airport Private Limited** in New Delhi
- The LoA defines provisions for **civil aviation security responsibilities** and functions at the upcoming international airport at Jewar, Noida
- The contract of **construction of the airport** has been awarded to **YIAPL**, which is a joint venture of the **Airport Authority of India (AAI)**, the Government of UP, and Zurich international airport

15. RBI announces special measures for annual closing of govt accounts



- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced special measures for the annual closing of government accounts for the current financial year.
- RBI has instructed all agency banks to keep their designated branches open for over the **counter transactions** related to **government transactions** up to the normal working hours on 31st March 2021.
- Transactions through **NEFT and RTGS** can also be carried out up to midnight on the day.

16. India, Bangladesh sign five MoUs in various fields

- India and Bangladesh have signed five MoUs in various fields like disaster management, ICT equipment, and sports in the presence of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** in Dhaka.
- India-Bangladesh Friendship stamps were also released to commemorate the **50th anniversary** of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.
- Indian govt gifted 109 ambulances to bolster the health capacity of Bangladesh.

17. Education Minister launches Ānandam: The Center for Happiness in Jammu

- Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually inaugurated **Ānandam: The Center for Happiness** in Indian Institute of Management, Jammu
- Centre will be divided into 5 categories: **counselling, holistic wellness, elective courses on happiness development, Research-Leadership and faculty development**
- Centre will have advisory board of experts from academics, research, and industry
- It acquires its name from Indian wisdom tradition where it means pure consciousness

18. Filmfare Awards for 2021 announced

- The **66th Filmfare Awards for 2021** has been announced to honour artistic and technical excellence in Hindi cinema for 2020
- Anubhav Sinha directed **'Thappad'** won seven awards
- Winners:
 - Best Film: **Thappad**
 - Best Director: **Om Raut (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)**
 - Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male): **Irrfan Khan (Angrezi Medium)**
 - Best Actor (Critics): **Amitabh Bachchan (Gulabo Sitabo)**
 - Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female): **Taapsee Pannu (Thappad)**
 - Best Lyrics: **Gulzar (Chhapaak)**

19. Indian Navy to participate in French Naval Exercise with QUAD nation

- **Indian Navy** will participate in France-led naval drill named as **'La Perouse'** in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- The exercise will be held from **April 5 to 7, 2021**.
- Participating nations also include Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) member countries: **Australia, Japan and United States of America (USA)**.
- Indian Navy will take part in 'La Perouse' for the first time. Until now, India was not invited for the French naval exercise.

20. New Zealand passes Miscarriages Bereavement Leave Law

- **New Zealand Parliament** has recently passed legislation to provide **leave for miscarriage and for stillbirth**.



- This Bill allows mothers and their partners the right to get paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth, without having to tap into sick leave.
- Employees will get 3 days leave when a pregnancy ends with stillbirth
- With this, New Zealand become second country in the world to do so.
- **India is the only other country in the world with similar legislation.**

21. Nagaland Health Minister launches “i-Learn” tracking application

- Nagaland Health Minister, **S Pangnyu Phom** has launched **i-Learn**, which is a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers in Kohima
- It has been launched in partnership with **USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiigo** which will cater across **189 Health & wellness centres in Nagaland**
- **i-Learn**: learning management system for CHOs with self-facilitated learning for improving, learning new skills in clinical and non-clinical areas
- Nagaland CM: **Neiphiu Rio**

22. Thisara Perera becomes first Sri Lankan to hit six Sixes in an over

- Sri Lankan all-rounder batsman, **Thisara Perera** has become the **first cricketer from the island nation to hit six sixes from one over.**
- He achieved the feat during a domestic match in Colombo while playing for Army Sports Cricket Club in List A match against Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club.
- He scored an unbeaten **52 runs from 13 balls** and thus smashing the second-fastest half-century in List A cricket.

23. World Backup Day: 31 March

- **World Backup Day** is observed every year on **31st March** to protect our precious digital documents as we have become more reliant on technology.
- It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups.
- World Backup Day began as **World Backup Month**, by a hard drive company named **Maxtor** which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.

24. International Transgender Day of Visibility: 31 March

- **International Transgender Day of Visibility** is observed every year on **March 31** to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebrate their contributions to society.
- The day also focuses on homophobic, biphobic and transphobic
- This day was founded by US-based transgender activist **Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009**
- It has since been spearheaded by U.S.-based youth advocacy organization **Trans Student Educational Resources**

25. Women-led startup develops ‘Giga Mesh’ for internet services to rural areas

- Bengaluru-based women-led startup, **Astrome** has developed an innovative wireless product ‘**Giga Mesh**’ to provide reliable low-cost internet services in suburban and rural areas.
- It is a **wireless product** with the ability to provide quality, high-speed rural telecom infrastructure at 5 times lower cost.



- It will give fibre like bandwidth at much lower cost
- Astrome is a deep tech startup incubated at IISc, Bangalore
- Team was led by Dr. **Neha Satak** (co-founder, CEO at Astrome)

26. HDFC Bank named 'India's Best SME Bank' by Asiamoney

- **HDFC Bank** has been conferred as '**India's Best Bank for SMEs**' at **Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021**.
- HDFC Bank has been honoured for its transformation of **micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME)** business over the past few years.
- **Asiamoney Best Bank Awards** is based upon Annual Best Banks survey by a financial magazine based in Hong Kong, to identify excellent banks a range of core banking activities over the past 12 months.
- HQs: **Mumbai**
- CEO: **Sashidhar Jagdishan**

27. DGCA directs Airport authorities to enhance surveillance of COVID

- **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has directed to enhance surveillance pertaining to COVID-19 protocols at the Airports
- DGCA further asked all airport operators to ensure that the instructions on Covid-19 protocol from standpoint of wearing face masks properly, covering nose and mouth, maintaining social distance norms within airport are followed scrupulously
- Airport operators will have to explore possibility of taking punitive action, such as levying fines

28. Govt operationalized 22 new routes in last three days under UDAN scheme

- **Govt** has operationalised **22 new routes in the last three days under UDAN scheme** as a part of endeavour to connect the unconnected regions.
- Out of these new routes, six routes have been operationalised in North-East India.
- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)**: flagship **Regional Connectivity scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation** envisaged to make air travel affordable and widespread in the country. Till date, 347 routes have been operationalised under the UDAN scheme.

29. Rajinikanth to be honoured with 51st Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- Renowned actor, **Rajinikanth** (45 years in Kollywood) has been conferred with the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019**
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**:
 - India's highest honour in cinema
 - Presented by: Directorate of Film Festivals
 - It is named after **Dhundiraj Govind Phalke**, who is revered as the father of Indian cinema
 - It was instituted in **1969**.
 - The recipient receives a **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh**.

30. India-US Special Forces military exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2021' held

- The **11th edition of Indo-US joint special forces exercise** titled as '**Vajra Prahar 2021**' was conducted at Special Forces Training School located at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh in March 2021.



- **Aim:** Enhancing interoperability between the two side and share the best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- Apart from this, Indian and US Armies carried out '**Exercise Yudh Abhyas**' in Rajasthan for counter terrorism operations.

31. Sharankumar Limbale selected for 2020 Saraswati Samman

- Marathi novelist, **Sharankumar Limbale** has been selected for the **2020 Saraswati Samman** for his Marathi novel, **Sanatan**, which was published in 2018
- It is being conferred annually by **KK Birla Foundation**.
- 2020 is the 30th edition of the prize.
- **Saraswati Samman:** It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature. It provides citation, plaque and award money of ₹15 lakh. It was instituted in 1991.

32. World Bank raises GDP growth projection for India to 10.1% for FY22

- **World Bank** has raised Indian GDP growth prediction to **10.1% for 2021-22 fiscal from 5.4% projected in January** in its **South Asia Economic Focus Spring update report**
- Real India GDP growth will be in the range from 7.5% to 12.5%.
- As per World Bank, government consumption is expected to rise by about 16.7% during the reported fiscal.
- Report forecast growth for the South Asia region at **7.2% in 2021** and 4.4% in 2022
- World Bank HQs: **Washington D.C., USA**.

33. Government announces Rs 14,500 crore capital infusion in 4 PSBs

- Govt has announced to infuse **Rs 14,500 crore in 4 state-owned banks in 2020-21**, by issuing non-interest-bearing bonds to these banks
- Four Banks: **Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank**
- Recapitalisation bonds will be issued with six different maturities, and special securities will be at par for the amount as per eligible bank application

34. Utkal Divas or Odisha Day: 1st April

- **Utkal Divas or Odisha day** is being observed every year on **April 1** to celebrate 86th foundation day of Odisha.
- Odisha was the first state to be formed on the linguistic basis in 1936. Earlier, it was the part of Bihar.
- The state was established as a separate British India province and the day is celebrated as Orissa Day to encourage the remembrance of the same and foster a spirit of unity among all the citizens of the state.
- Odisha Capital: **Bhubaneswar**.

35. RBI extends deadline for processing auto-debit payments by 6 months

- **RBI** has extended the timeline for processing recurring **online transactions by 6 months** till Sep 30, 2021
- Prior to this, in December 2020, RBI had directed all banks including RRBs, NBFCs, and payment gateways that processing of recurring transactions (domestic or cross-border) using **cards or Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) or Unified Payments Interface** will not be continued beyond March 31, 2021 if they do not comply with **Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA)**



36. Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet won National Book Critics Fiction Circle prize

- **Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet** has been conferred with **National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction**
- **Hamnet:** Well-timed story for the current pandemic, explores the impact of the boy's illness and death on his family. He was Shakespeare's only son.
- **Non-fiction section:** Tom Zoellner's *Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire*
- **Biography:** Amy Stanley's *Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World*

37. Jeet Thayil's Names of the Women book released

- **Jeet Thayil** authored book titled '**Names of the Women**' has been released.
- This book depicts extraordinary reimagining of the New Testament from the points of view of the women who became the disciples of Jesus Christ - and whose roles have been erased from the Gospels
- **Jeet Thayil:** Renowned author, best known for his book 'Narcopolis' which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012 and won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.

38. Union Bank of India launches HPCL Co-branded Credit Card UNI - CARBON CARD

- **Union Bank of India** has launched unique HPCL co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI, titled as '**UNI - CARBON CARD**'
- It is a unique card designed with association one of the largest Public Sector Bank, **Union Bank of India** and **HPCL**, a leader in fuel retail and Rupay (India's largest card payment network).
- It will create an opportunity to create value for the customers.
- MD & CEO of Union Bank of India: **Rajkiran Rai G.**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai.**

39. Govt introduces ECLGS 3.0 in view of COVID-19 pandemic

- **Central Govt** has introduced **ECLGS 3.0** in view of the continuing adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on certain service sectors
- It has been launched to extend the scope of **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**
- It will now cover business enterprises in hospitality, travel, tourism, leisure and sporting sectors
- It will involve extension of credit upto 40% of total credit outstanding across all lending institutions
- Tenure of loans granted under ECLGS 3.0: **6 years.**

40. Mukhmeet S. Bhatia takes over as Director General of ESIC

- Senior IAS officer **Mukhmeet S. Bhatia** (1990 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre) takes charge as the **Director-General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)**
- He has worked as the Additional Secretary in the **Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance**
- He has also served as the Principal Secretary in Dept. of Labour & Employment and Women & Child Development in Jharkhand.
- ESIC: Autonomous Body under **Ministry of Labour and Employment**



41. India ranks 140 among 156 nations in WEF's gender gap index 2021

- India ranked **140** among 156 countries in the **Global Gender Gap index 2021**, released by **WEF**.
- India was ranked 112th among 153 countries in 2020
- India emerged as the third-worst performing country in South Asia.
- Iceland has topped the index for the 12th time, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand, Rwanda, Sweden, Ireland and Switzerland
- Afghanistan is the worst-performing country in the report.
- The **Global Gender Gap Report 2021** is the **15th edition** of the report.

42. International Children's Book Day: 02 April

- **International Children's Book Day (ICBD)** is organised every year on 2nd April to inspire love of reading and to call attention to children's books.
- It was first observed in 1967 by International **Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)**
- Each year a different National Section of IBBY has the opportunity to be the international sponsor of ICBD and decide upon a theme.
- IBBY United States is the sponsor for International Children's Book Day 2021.
- Theme 2021: **The Music of Words**.

43. World Autism Awareness Day: 2 April

- **World Autism Awareness Day** is observed on **April 2**.
- Aim: makes people understand and accept people with autism, foster worldwide support, and inspire people.
- It is a day that spread kindness and autism awareness.
- Theme: **'Recognise the Genius in Me'**.
- Autism is a neurodevelopment disorder characterized by deficits in social and language communication, as well as repetitive behaviours and restricted interests

44. ICICI Bank, Axis Bank to co-lead NUE with Amazon, Visa

- **ICICI Bank** and **Axis Bank** have tied up with global e-commerce major Amazon and cards major Visa to launch a retail payments entity
- Each bank will be co-leading with each having a 20% stake (40%) and the other partners including Amazon, Billdesk, Pine Labs and Visa will be holding a stake of **15% each (60%)**
- **RBI** allowed other organisations to set up umbrella entities for payments systems to create an alternate mechanism **NPCI** for speeding up the cashless payment.

45. Mansukh Mandaviya launches new cruise service connecting Hazira to Diu

- Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** virtually flagged off the Cruise Ship service between Hazira Port of Surat and Diu.
- Between **2014 to 2020**, Cruise calls at Indian Ports have increased from 139 calls with around 1 lakh passengers to 450 calls with over **4.5 lakh passengers**.
- Indian Govt. is planning for **6 International Cruise** Terminals:
- A **300 passenger** capacity cruise ship will have 16 cabins. It will make two round trips during the week.

46. RBL Bank and Tide, collaborate to serve Indian SMEs



- **RBL Bank** partnered with UK based business banking fintech **Tide Platform Limited (Tide)** to provide bank account infrastructure to Tide's India platform which is focused to serve mainly on **SMEs**.
- Tide's first market outside the UK, is India due to its vast **SME** population of around 63 million, and the people's entrepreneurial spirit.
- The tie-up will provide an option for the SMEs to open **current and savings accounts** at RBL Bank through Tide's business platform.

47. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners with nStore to digitize retailers

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has joined hands with **nStore** to digitise offline **retailers and small businesses** in the country.
- Under this partnership, the lender will offer a mobile application '**nLincs**' to its current account holders who own local businesses.
- With this new application, merchants can sell their merchandise online.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** aims to support local businesses like Kirana & general stores, medical shops, stationery etc.

48. RBI Fixes Centre's WMA Limit At Rs 1.2 Lakh Cr For First Half Of FY 2021-22

- **RBI** set the **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** limit at Rs 1.2 lakh crore for the central govt for the first half of the FY 2021-22.
- **WMAs** are temporary advances given by the RBI to the government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.
- The interest rate on WMA is equal to the repo rate and on the overdraft, it is two per cent above the repo rate. The current repo rate is 4 per cent.
- **Note: Shaktikanta Das** is present and 25th governor of the **RBI**

49. Subhash Kumar takes additional charge as CMD of ONGC

- **Subhash Kumar** has taken additional charge as Chairman and **Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**
- He is presently serving as the Director (Finance) at ONGC.
- He succeeded Shashi Shanker, who superannuated on March 31, 2021
- Subhash Kumar has over 36 years of experience in diverse activities across the Exploration & Production (E&P) value chain.
- He joined **ONGC** in 1985 as Finance and Accounts Officer and served in different capacities.

50. Indian Army to participate in SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021 in Bangladesh

- **Indian Army** to participate in Multinational Military Exercise titled as '**SHANTIR OGROSHENA' 2021** (Front Runner of the Peace) scheduled to be held in Bangladesh
- It will be held from **April 4 to 12, 2021**
- Theme: **Robust Peace Keeping Operations**
- It is being held to commemorate birth centenary of Father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman
- Other participants: **Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh**
- **USA, UK, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait** and **Singapore** will be Military observers

51. Centre withdraws order cutting interest rates on small savings schemes



- **Rate of interest on Small Savings Schemes** for the first quarter (April-June) of 2021-22 will remain unchanged as the last quarter i.e., **Jan-March 2020-2021**
- Govt had announced a cut in interest rates on various small savings schemes sharply by 40-110 basis points earlier.
- Govt slashed interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme to 6.4% for April-June quarter.
- This was the first time since 1974 that interest rate on PPF fell below 7%.

52. DRDO lab develops light weight Bullet Proof Jacket

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, along with **Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE)**, **Kanpur** has developed a Light Weight Bullet Proof Jacket.
- It is of 9 kg weight and meets the qualitative requirements of Indian Army.
- The **Front Hard Armour Panel jacket** was tested successfully at TBRL Chandigarh and met relevant BIS standards.
- DRDO Chairman: **G Satheesh Reddy**

53. Govt launches All-India Survey of Migrant Workers

- Govt of India has launched **All-India Survey of Migrant Workers** and **All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey**
- **Aim:** To study the kind of employment-related migration undertaken by workers
- It will provide the details of working and living conditions faced by Migrant Workers and impact of COVID 19 on their world of work
- It will also provide employment estimates for establishment employing 10 or more workers as well as those with employing 9 or less workers

54. Indian Food Week organized in Beijing.

- The **7 day-long Indian Food Week** has been organized at a five-star hotel in Beijing
- It comprises of diverse delicacies, Indian masala tea, chaat, panipuris and chowmein along with desserts like kulfi
- They are also curious to understand Indian culture and loved the preparation methods and the stories associated them
- **Rabiul** organized the festival with an Indian chef from another Indian restaurant
- After Beijing, this **Indian Food Week** will be now organized in **Shanghai**

55. RBI lowers base rate by 15 basis points to 7.81 %

- **RBI** has cut down the applicable base rate as 7.81%
- It is lower by **15 basis points (0.15 %)** as compared to current quarter
- Base rate was **8.76** during the same period in 2020
- On the last working day of every quarter, RBI advises interest rates to be charged by NBFC-MFIs to their borrowers in the ensuing quarter. It is based on the average base rates of 5 largest commercial banks
- Lower base rate means cheaper loans by **NBFC** and **Micro Finance institutes (MFI)**

56. Biswa Bhusan Harichandan conferred with 'Kalinga Ratna' award 2021

- Andhra Pradesh Governor **Biswa Bhusan Harichandan** has been conferred with '**Kalinga Ratna**' award 2021 by Sarala Sahitya Sansad.



- It was given by **M. Venkaiah Naidu** during 600th Birth Anniversary of Adikabi Sarala Das and 40th celebrations of Sarala Sahitya Sansad
- The award carried a silver statue of **Goddess Saraswati** and a **copper plaque**
- **Sarala Das** was an excellent literary genius of 15th century who is well known as **Adi Kavi**, who contributed to epic literary works in Odia

57. Govt sets up three committees on occupational safety

- Govt has constituted **3 expert committees pertaining to factories, docks and construction work**
- Committees:
 - One will look into the **safety parameters of industries, docks and ports**
 - Other two committees have been asked to study and suggest rules for building and other construction works and the fire safety
- Committees include experts from industry as well as subject matter, from both public and private sector
- **Separate committee on fire safety standards** has been formed

58. Union Education Minister launches MyNEP2020 platform of NCTE Portal

- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched **MyNEP2020 platform of NCTE web portal**
- The platform seeks to invite suggestions/inputs/membership from the stakeholders for preparing draft for development of **National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST)** and **National Mission for Mentoring Program membership (NMM)**
- It will be operational from **1st April to 15th May 2021**
- It will extensively review the inputs collected during the consultation period

59. 2023 Men's Boxing World Championships to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

- The **2023 men's boxing World Championships** will be held in **Uzbekistan capital, Tashkent**
- Tashkent is awarded the **2023 AIBA Men's boxing World Boxing Championships** after the successful bid presentation by the Boxing Federation of Uzbekistan
- 22nd edition of the competition will be the first time when Uzbekistan will be hosting it.
- Uzbekistan is one of the most active members of the International Boxing Association, we have rich boxing history
- AIBA President: **Umar Kremlev**

60. India's biggest floating solar power plant to be set up at Ramagundam

- **India's biggest floating solar power plant** will be set up at **Ramagundam in Telangana** with a capacity of 100 MW and 4.5 lakh photovoltaic panels.
- It is being set up at **Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir**, around May
- It is commissioned by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).
- Estimated cost: **Rs 423 crore**
- Solar panels will cover **450-acre area of the reservoir** and will reduce carbon footprints and accelerate its green energy production to 30% of its capacity.



CLAT 2022

A Comprehensive Course (batch 3)

Best study plan to reach your dream NLU!

Why take this course?

- Expert guidance by NLU alumni provided until the day of your exam
- Day-wise study plan covering the entire syllabus to help you score better.
- All topics covered through Live Classes & Quizzes.
- Daily Quizzes to boost your speed and accuracy.

