

April- 28

NATIONAL

Sagar Kavach

- ❖ Two-day coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' to strengthen the coastal security and to assess coastal security mechanism was held along Kerala coast.
- ❖ The exercise saw the participation of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Indian Navy, Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement wing and various other security stakeholders.
- ❖ The Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is held twice a year.

Harimau Shakti 2018

- ❖ Bilateral joint training exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018 between India and Malaysia will be conducted in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik, Hulu Langat, Malaysia from 30 April 18 to 13 May 2018 as part of ongoing defence cooperation between both countries.
- ❖ This is the first instance the joint training exercise of Indian and Malaysian soldiers is being organized on Malaysian soil.
- ❖ Indian contingent is being represented by 4 GRENADIERS, one of the oldest infantry battalions having rich operational experience in conventional as well as counter insurgency warfare.
- ❖ Malaysian contingent is being represented by soldiers from Royal Ranjer Regiment and Royal Malay Regiment, known for their experience in Jungle Warfare.



India and WHO - MoA

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between India and World Health Organisation (WHO) represented by its Regional Office for South-East Asia acting through its country office in India.
- ❖ The bilateral Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed in March 2018 in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to encourage cooperation between India and WHO. This will facilitate in improving the public health status of people in India.
- ❖ It was established on 7 April 1948.
- ❖ It is a member of United Nations Development Group and its headquarters is located at Geneva.
- ❖ The WHO is a specialized agency of United Nations that acts as coordinating authority on international public health.

Restructured National Bamboo Mission

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) during the remaining period of 14th Finance Commission (2018-20).
- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
- ❖ CCEA has also approved Empowerment of Executive Committee for the formulation of guidelines of NBM and make changes therein.
- ❖ The restructured mission will focus on the development of bamboo in limited states where it has a social, commercial and economic advantage.
- ❖ The restructured mission will focus particularly in North Eastern region and in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ NBM, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was started in 2006-07. It was subsumed under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during 2014-15 and continued till 2015-16.
- ❖ It aims to promote the growth of bamboo sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategy.

ECONOMY

MSP for Raw Jute

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for an increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for the 2018-19 season.
- ❖ The MSP for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Raw Jute was increased to Rs.3700 per quintal for the 2018-19 season from Rs. 3500 per quintal in the 2017-18 season.
- ❖ The increased MSP was based on recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ❖ The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue to act as Central Nodal Agency to undertake price support operations at MSP in Jute growing states.

PRICE COMFORT

- MSP of raw jute raised by Rs 200 per quintal to Rs 3,700 for the 2018-19 crop season
- Decision to benefit jute farmers in Bengal, Assam and Bihar
- These three states account for 95 per cent of the country's jute production

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)

- ❖ It is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It came into existence in January 1965.
- ❖ CACP is an expert body which recommends MSPs on various crops to Central Government (CCEA) by taking into account cost of production, trends in domestic and international prices.
- ❖ Currently, CACP comprises Chairman, Member Secretary, one Member (Official) and two Members (Non-Official).
- ❖ The non-official members are representatives of farming community and usually have an active association with the farming community.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LCU L53

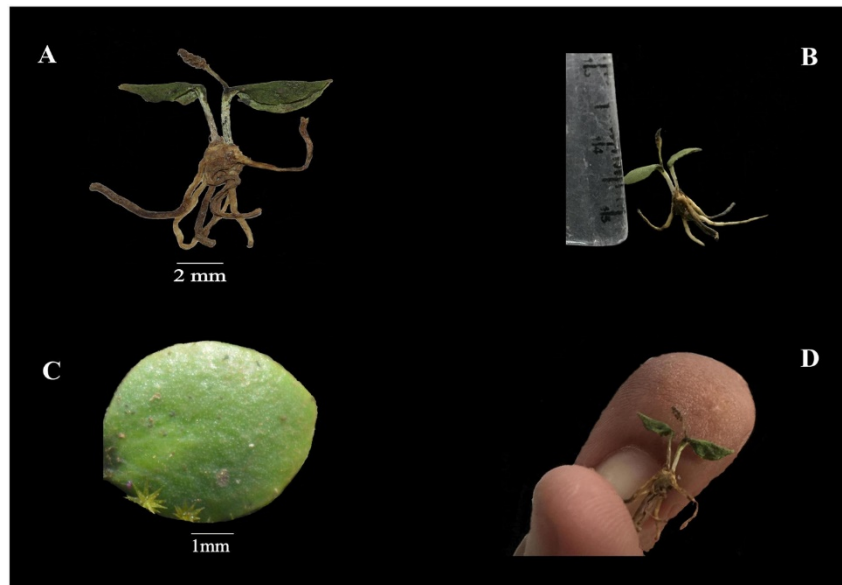
- ❖ The Indian Navy has inducted Landing Craft Utility (LCU) INLCU L53 at Port Blair.
- ❖ LCU L53 is the third ship in series of eight Mark IV LCU vessels built and designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata for Navy.
- ❖ The first ship of the series was commissioned in 2016.
- ❖ LCU L53 MK-IV ship is amphibious ship with a displacement of 830 Tons and can sail through the sea at speed of 15kt.
- ❖ It is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment and advanced systems such as Integrated Bridge System (IBS) and Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).
- ❖ The ship will be based in Andaman and Nicobar Command.



ENVIRONMENT

Malvi's adder's-tongue fern

- ❖ Researchers have discovered the world's smallest land fern named Malvi's adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum malviae*) in Ahwa forests of the Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district.
- ❖ Ferns are seasonal and mostly grow with first monsoon rains.
- ❖ The fingernail-sized fern belongs to a group known as adder's-tongue ferns, named after their resemblance to snake's tongue.
- ❖ Its size is just one centimeter.



New pollution - forecast

- ❖ India is tying up with the United States and Finland to develop a pollution-forecast system that will help to know anticipate particulate matter (PM) levels at least two days in advance.
- ❖ The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be coordinating this exercise and will be jointly developed with expertise from Finnish Meteorological Institute and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- ❖ Currently, the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), run out of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, serves as the apex forecaster of pollution trends in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has recently released a draft of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) that aims to improve air quality monitoring in India.

New Frog Species Found

- ❖ Scientists have identified a new species of frog called *Fejervarya goemchi* in the highland plateaus of the Western Ghats parts of Goa.
- ❖ It has been named after the state of Goa where the species is discovered.
- ❖ *Fejervarya goemchi* are large-sized terrestrial frogs.

- ❖ It was identified using a combination of morphology, geographic distribution range and molecular methods to distinguish from other *Fejervarya* species found in South and South-East Asia.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

First woman lawyer - SC judge

- ❖ Senior Advocate Indu Malhotra was sworn in as Judge of Supreme Court of India. She was administered the oath to the office by Chief Justice (CJI) Dipak Misra.
- ❖ With this, she became first woman Judge to be elevated directly from the Bar. Her appointment raises total tally of SC judges to 25 from sanctioned strengthened of 31 (including CJI).
- ❖ Overall, she will be seventh woman judge in SC. In 1989, Justice M. Fathima Beevi became first woman judge in Supreme Court.
- ❖ So far Justice R. Banumathi is the lone woman judge in SC.
- ❖ In the 67-year history of the Supreme Court, there have been only two occasions when it has had two sitting women judges together.