

April - 15

## **NATIONAL**

### **Sushil Chandra**

- ❖ The incumbent Election Commissioner (EC) Sushil Chandra has been named to become the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India.
- ❖ He was appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind as the 24th CEC.
- ❖ He will replace incumbent CEC Sunil Arora.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India consists of three members, namely Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- ❖ He is the second Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer to head the Election Commission.
- ❖ S Krishnamurthy was the first IRS officer to be appointed to that position.
- ❖ He oversaw the 2004 Lok Sabha elections' conduct as the 13th CEC.

### **Sputnik V**

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India has approved emergency use authorisation of the Russian Vaccine, Sputnik V.
- ❖ It has now become the third vaccine to get emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator after Covishield and Covaxin.
- ❖ It was discussed in the meeting of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC).
- ❖ It was chaired by VK Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog.
- ❖ Sputnik Vaccine was developed by Russia in the last year.
- ❖ India is the most populated country to register the Russian vaccine.
- ❖ India has now become the 60th country to approve Sputnik V.
- ❖ India is also the leading production hub for Sputnik V.
- ❖ The Hyderabad based Indian pharma company Dr Reddy's Lab has also inked an agreement with Russia for the supply of this vaccine in India.
- ❖ Russia is the first country in the world to register a vaccine against Coronavirus (August 2020).

## Raisina Dialogue 2021

- ❖ The Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 6th edition of the Raisina Dialogue.
- ❖ It was attended by the Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen and the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame in a virtual mode.
- ❖ It was also attended by the Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison.
- ❖ The Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geoeconomics and geopolitics.
- ❖ It is held annually since 2016.
- ❖ It is jointly organised by the External Affairs Ministry and Observer Research Foundation.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Little Guru

- ❖ A Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' has launched in Bangladesh by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the High Commission of India.
- ❖ This Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ❖ It is world's first Gamified Sanskrit learning application.
- ❖ This App aims to promote the Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists and historians across the world.





## **ECONOMY**

### **Aahaar Kranti**

- ❖ This mission aims to spread the message of the need for a nutritionally balanced diet.
- ❖ It also aims to understand the importance of accessibility to all local fruits and vegetables.
- ❖ It was launched by Vijnana Bharati (Vibha) and Global Indian Scientists' and Technocrats' Forum (GIST).
- ❖ Its Motto is 'Good Diet-Good Cognition'.
- ❖ It is designed to address the peculiar problem being faced by India and the world called 'hunger and diseases in abundance'.
- ❖ The United Nations has also declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.
- ❖ The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 emphasizes "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Gamma-ray emitting galaxy**

- ❖ The Indian researchers discovered a rare and farthest gamma-ray emitting galaxy.
- ❖ This newly found galaxy was named as NLS1 (Narrow-Line Seyfert 1) galaxy.
- ❖ These galaxies are classified as AGN or Active Galactic Nuclei.
- ❖ Compared to normal galaxies, these active galaxies can emit up to thousands of times of energy.
- ❖ The emissions of active galaxies are non-stellar (non-thermal) that are observed in the form of microwave, radio, infrared, optical, X-ray, ultra-violet, and gamma-ray wavebands.
- ❖ One of the largest ground-based telescopes in the world Subaru Telescope located in Hawaii in US, was used for this.
- ❖ It was formed when the Universe was only about 4.7 billion years old.
- ❖ The current age of the Universe is 13.8 billion years.
- ❖ The Scientists from the Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciencES (ARIES), Nainital have found this.

- ❖ It is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.

### **Redshift**

- ❖ Since Edwin Hubble in 1929 announced that the Universe is expanding, it was noted that the galaxies are moving away from us.
- ❖ The light, in form of wavelengths, from these receding galaxies is measured as redshift.
- ❖ This means farther the galaxies, the redder wavelengths of light and a larger redshift value.
- ❖ Such galaxies are classified as redshifted galaxies.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Doomsday Glacier**

- ❖ It is also called the Thwaites Glacier.
- ❖ It is located in Antarctica.
- ❖ It is 120 km wide at its broadest.
- ❖ This glacier is melting away faster than previously anticipated.
- ❖ Because of its size (1.9 lakh square km), it contains enough water to raise the world sea level by 10 feet.



## Saint Vincent Island

- ❖ The La Soufriere volcano has erupted recently.
- ❖ It has been erupting explosively, covering the main island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in ash and debris.
- ❖ Saint Vincent is a volcanic island in the Caribbean Sea.
- ❖ It is the largest island of the country in the Caribbean Sea.

### Caribbean volcano erupts



## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Poonam Gupta

- ❖ She will be the new director-general of the policy think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- ❖ She becomes the first woman to hold the post.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone of NCAER campus on 31 October 1959.

### BAFTA Awards 2021

- ❖ The British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) for the year 2021 has been announced by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.
- ❖ The awards, the British equivalent of the Oscars, honour the best in national and international cinema.
- ❖ Best Film: Nomadland

- ❖ Best Director: Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)



### **Indian Women Wrestlers for Tokyo Olympics**

- ❖ Sonam Malik becomes India's youngest female wrestler to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.
- ❖ She is an Indian woman wrestler from Haryana.
- ❖ Anshu Malik, from Haryana also, is another women wrestler qualified for this game.
- ❖ Both were qualified in the Asian Olympic qualifiers in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Vinesh Phogat is already qualified for Tokyo Games.
- ❖ The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, officially the Games of the XXXII Olympiad, and known as the 2020 Summer Olympics or Tokyo 2020, is an international multi-sport event.

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