

April - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The first batch of the aircrew of the Indian Navy has completed its training in the US to operate the MH-60 'Romeo' multi-role helicopter.
 - India is procuring 24 MH-60R helicopters from the US.
- ❖ A rare event was witnessed recently in Nagpur and other parts of Maharashtra with blazing streaks of light piercing through the sky during the night.
 - While some are calling it a meteor shower, others are saying that it was actually a re-entry stage of a Chinese Rocket.

TAMIL NADU

Senior National Basketball Championship

- ❖ Tamil Nadu defeated defending champion Punjab 87-69 in the final to win the men's title in the 71st Senior National Basketball Championship.
- ❖ The Indian Railways team won the women's title, beating Telangana 131-82.

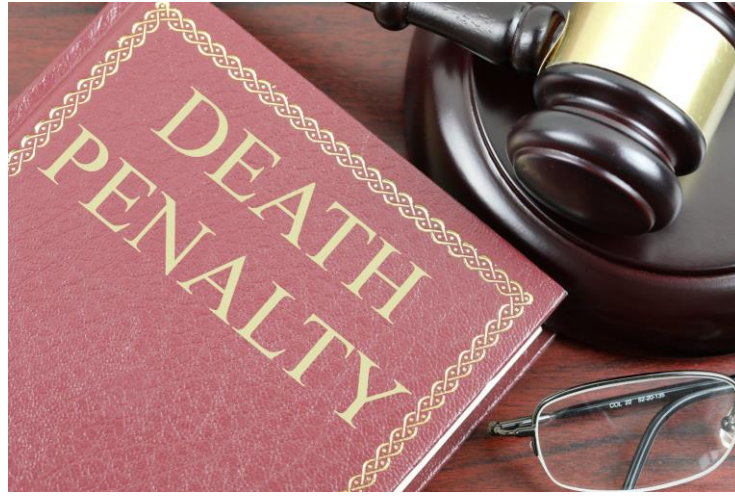


NATIONAL

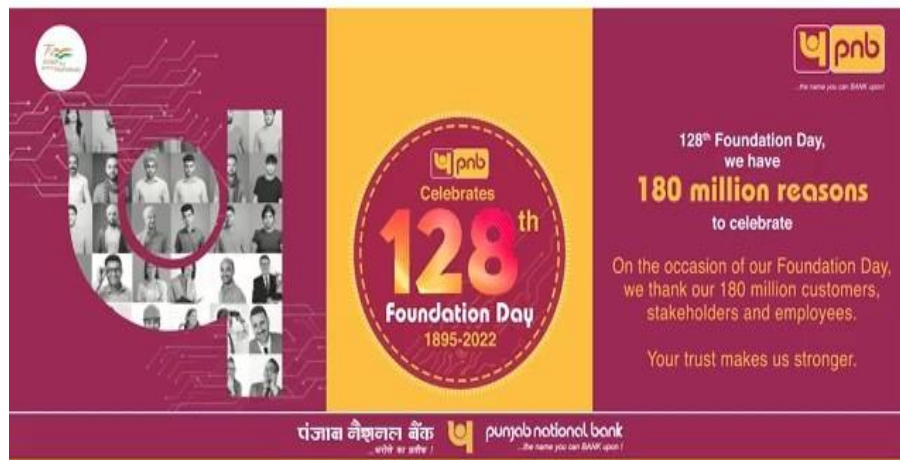
Landmark ruling on the death penalty

- ❖ A bench in the Supreme Court has made the psychological evaluation of the condemned prisoner mandatory.

- ❖ It has also sought a report on the inmate's conduct at the time of examining whether the gallows remain the only fitting punishment.



Punjab National Bank Foundation Day



- ❖ Punjab National Bank has celebrated its 128th Foundation Day on April 12, 2022.
- ❖ It is India's second-largest bank.
- ❖ PNB was established by the great freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai in 1894.
- ❖ It is proudly known as Sher-e-Punjab (Lion of Punjab).

- ❖ PNB was the First Swadeshi Bank after being influenced by the swadeshi movement.

India in 4 UN ECOSOC Bodies

- ❖ India has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) four major bodies, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.
- ❖ To the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Right, Ambassador Preeti Saran has been re-elected.
- ❖ The 4 bodies to which India has been elected are
 - The Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
 - The Commission for Social Development
 - The Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations
 - The Commission on Science and Technology for Development



India - New Wheat Supplier of Egypt



- ❖ Egypt, the world's largest importer of wheat from Ukraine and Russia, has given approval to India as one of its wheat suppliers.
- ❖ India will be supplying around one million tonnes of wheat.
- ❖ The world's second-largest wheat producer was India with a share of around 14.14 percent in global wheat production in 2020.
- ❖ The major wheat-growing states are Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

e-Bill Facility



- ▶ Integration of central and state level systems through IT bridges
- ▶ **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number** for IT based management of land records
- ▶ Establishing **C-PACE** to facilitate voluntary winding up of companies
- ▶ End to end online **e-Bill System** and utilising **surety bonds** in government procurement
- ▶ Animation, Visual effects, Gaming, and Comic (AVCG) promotion task force
- ▶ Support to **5G** under **PLI** scheme
- ▶ Opening up defence R&D for **industry, startups** and **academia**
- ▶ **68%** capital procurement budget for Defence sector from domestic industry in 2022-23

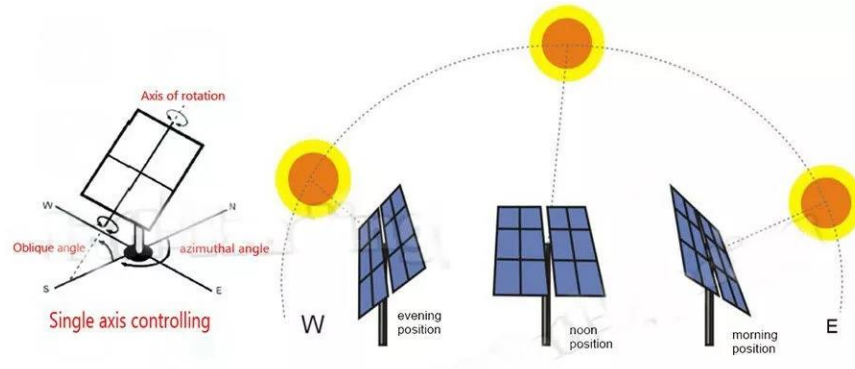
[@PIB_India](#) [@PIBHindi](#) [@pibindia](#) [@pibindia](#) [@pibindia](#) [@PIB_India](#) [@PIBHindi](#) [@PIBIndia](#)

- ❖ Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system.
- ❖ It was launched on the occasion of the 46th Civil Accounts Day.
- ❖ E-bill system is part of the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Digital India ecosystem to bring in broader transparency and expedite the process of payments.

Single-axis solar tracker system

- ❖ Tata Power arm Tata Power Renewables has commissioned a 300 MW solar plant in Dholera, Gujarat.

- ❖ It is India's largest single-axis solar tracker system.
- ❖ The project will generate 774 MUs annually.
- ❖ Along with this, it will reduce approximately 704340 MT/year of carbon emission.



108 ft Lord Hanuman Statue

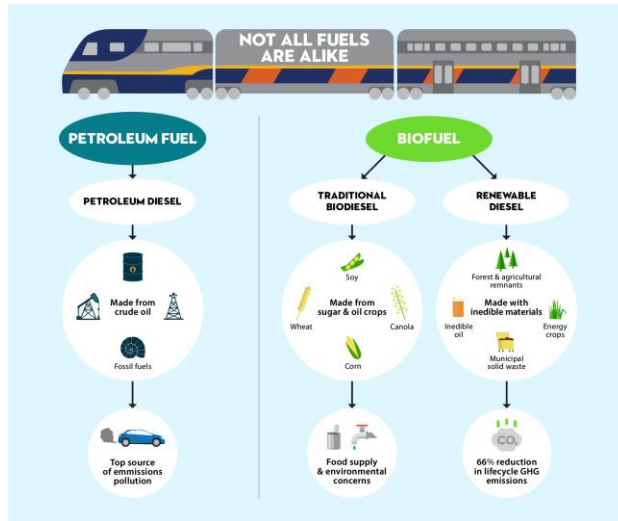
- ❖ On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 108 feet statue of Lord Hanuman in Gujarat's Morbi.
- ❖ The statue is the second of the four statues being built in the four directions across the country, as part of the 'Hanumanji Char Dham' project.
- ❖ A similar Hanuman statue is seen in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Two more statues are planned to be established in Rameswaram and West Bengal.



Bio-Diesel in Diesel Locos

- ❖ The Indian Railways is planning to run its diesel locomotives fleet using bio-diesel.

- ❖ The Indian Railways has informed the Parliament that the B-5 bio-diesel has been tested for the operation of diesel locomotives by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO).
- ❖ Bio-diesel usage will help in saving on the diesel bill of the railways.
- ❖ Bio-diesel will also help in reducing emissions, thus decreasing pollution.



ECONOMY

Regulatory Framework on microfinance loans

<p>More Freedom</p> <p>RBI has raised annual household income to ₹3 lakh for a collateral-free loan to be classified as microloan</p> <p>Unsecured loans by other NBFCs, irrespective of end use, will now be classified as microloans</p> <p>Monthly loan repayment is capped to below half the monthly household income to prevent debt traps</p>	<p>Margin cap was introduced a decade ago to stop NBFC-MFIs from charging usurious rates</p> <p>They now have freedom in fixing board-approved rates but will be under RBI scrutiny</p>	<p>₹2.32 L cr Combined microcredit portfolio as of Dec 31, 2021, up 1.9% YoY</p>
--	---	---

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India announced Regulatory Framework on microfinance loans.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has done away with the margin caps on the pricing of small loans given by non-banking financial company-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs).

- ❖ Earlier, there was a limit on the interest rate charged by microfinance lenders.
- ❖ The maximum interest rate was 10-12% above the cost of funds incurred by the institution or 2.75 times the average base rate of the five-largest commercial banks, whichever is lower.
- ❖ Now, the removal of margin caps brings NBFC-MFIs to the same level as other lenders such as banks.
- ❖ Also, the annual household income, to be eligible to avail of microfinance level has been raised to ₹3 lakh.

USA Fed rate hike

- ❖ The US Federal Reserve's decision to raise the interest rate will have only a limited spillover effect on India, as the markets have mostly priced in the impact.
- ❖ The Monetary policy will continue to be anchored by domestic macro-economic conditions rather than global factors.

STATES

Karnataka 'Integration Day'



- ❖ Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that Sri Siddalinga Swami of Tontadarya Mutt's birth anniversary in Gadag will be celebrated across the state as 'Integration Day'.
- ❖ This was announced after the Chief Minister inaugurated the Aikya Mantapa.

- ❖ The Mantapa is a structure built around the location where the seer's mortal remains were buried on the Tontadarya Mutt grounds in Gadag.

300 units of free power for Punjab

- ❖ Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced 300 units of free electricity each month for every household in the state from July 1.
- ❖ Mann said Scheduled Castes, backward castes, below-poverty-line households, and freedom fighters currently getting free 200 units each month will now get 300 units of electricity monthly.

30 DAYS REPORT CARD

300 UNITS OF FREE ELECTRICITY FROM JULY 1

LAUNCH OF ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTION LINE (+91 9501-200-200)

25,000 NEW GOVERNMENT JOBS ANNOUNCED

REGULARISATION OF 35,000 CONTRACTUAL WORKERS

DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF RATION ANNOUNCED

- ✓ Private schools instructed to not increase fees
- ✓ Anti-gangster task force set up and directed SSPs and Police Commissioners to take strict action against gangsters
- ✓ Over ₹1000 crore received for Rural Development Fund with concerted efforts
- ✓ Photographs of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Government Offices
- ✓ Compensation worth ₹101 crore plus released to farmers
- ✓ One MLA - One Pension
- ✓ Withdrawal of excess security from all MLAs
- ✓ March 23 declared as public holiday to mark Shaheed Diwas
- ✓ MLAs directed to remain available 24x7 for the general public
- ✓ Farmers assured that every single grain of farmer's produce will be procured smoothly
- ✓ All DCs asked to upgrade rehab centres within a month

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

SPORTS

Logo of 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled the logo of the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga stadium in the capital Bhubaneswar.

- ❖ The 15th edition will be staged in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, where the country's largest hockey stadium is being constructed.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hemophilia Day - April 17

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness for hemophilia and marks the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel.
- ❖ Frank Schnabel is the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia.
- ❖ The day also creates awareness about other bleeding disorders.
- ❖ The theme of the event this year is "Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy"

