

April - 26

## TAMIL NADU

### Arjun Kalyan becomes 68th Indian Grandmaster

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Arjun Kalyan became India's 68th Chess Grandmaster.
- ❖ He achieved this when he crossed the 2500 ELO mark after beating Dragan Kotic in the fifth round of GM Round Robin "Rujna Zore-3" in Serbia.
- ❖ Arjun is coached by IM Saravanan and Ukrainian GM Aleksandr Goloshchapov.
- ❖ He began playing chess at the age of nine and got his FIDE rating a year later.
- ❖ Viswanathan Anand became the country's first Grandmaster, in 1988.



## NATIONAL

### External Auditor of OPCW

- ❖ India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as External Auditor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for a three-year term starting 2021.
- ❖ The appointment was made during an election process held at the OPCW Conference of State Parties held on April 21, 2021.
- ❖ India was also selected as a member of the Executive council of the OPCW representing the Asia group for another 2-year term.
- ❖ OPCW is an intergovernmental organisation and Implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ❖ That entered into force on 29th April 1997.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Australia-India Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative**

- ❖ Australia has announced a grant of Rs 81.2 million (AUD 1.4 million) under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- ❖ IPOI was proposed by Indian Prime Minister Modi at the East Asia Summit in November 2019.
- ❖ The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative's objective is to strengthen maritime boundaries.

#### ***About the partnership***

- ❖ The initiative will help to support a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- ❖ The Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership forms the core of this "shared vision" of both countries.
- ❖ To apply for the grant, the company or organization should be located in either India or Australia and have partners in either of the two countries.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Tax collections for FY 21**

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance recently released the tax collection figures for the financial year 2020-21.
- ❖ According to the ministry, the direct tax collections for the financial year 2020-21 are Rs 9.45 lakh crores.
- ❖ The Direct Tax Collections include Personal Income Tax collections and Corporation Tax collections.
- ❖ The Personal Income Tax collected for the year 2020-21 was Rs 4.88 lakh crores.
- ❖ The Corporation Tax (or Corporate Tax) collected for the year 2020-21 was Rs 4.57 lakh crores.
- ❖ The Gross Collection of Direct Tax for the year 2020-21 was Rs 12.06 lakh crores.
- ❖ The tax collections in the fiscal year 2021 exceeded the revised target by 5%.
- ❖ The tax collected in 2021 was 10% lower than the direct tax collected in the previous year.



- ❖ In the Union Budget 2020-21, the Government of India predicted that Rs 13.19 lakh crores will be collected from direct taxes.
- ❖ However, this was before the inception of COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ After the pandemic, the estimate was reduced to Rs 9.05 lakh crores.

### **Foreign Portfolio Investments in India**

- ❖ In 2021, India has emerged as the largest recipient of Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI).
- ❖ The net FPI inflow for the fiscal year 2020-21 was Rs 2.74 lakh crores.
- ❖ The Foreign Portfolio Investment refers to the purchase of securities and assets by investors from other country.
- ❖ Foreign Direct Investment is the investment made by an individual or a firm (located in one country) in a business (located in another country).
- ❖ Portfolio Investment is seen as a short term move and direct investment is seen as a long-term move.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Russia's own space station**

- ❖ Russia is ready to start building its own space station with the aim of launching it into orbit by 2030.
- ❖ Russia is considering withdrawing from the International Space Station programme.
- ❖ After the first successful mission of U.S. company Space X, Russia lost its monopoly for manned flights to the ISS last year.

### **International Space Station**

- ❖ It is launched in 1998.
- ❖ It involves Russia, the United States, Canada, Japan, and the European Space Agency.
- ❖ ISS is a modular space station (habitable artificial satellite) in low Earth orbit.
- ❖ The ISS serves as space environment research laboratory in which scientific experiments are conducted in astrobiology, astronomy, meteorology, physics, and other fields.
- ❖ The ISS circles the Earth in roughly 93 minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day.



### **Cosmic Rose**

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently shared an image of “Cosmic Rose”.
- ❖ Cosmic Rose is an image captured by Hubble Space Telescope of NASA.
- ❖ The image featured interacting galaxies Arp 273.



### **Arp 273**

- ❖ It lies in the Andromeda constellation.
- ❖ It is 300 million light years away from the earth.
- ❖ It is a combination of spiral galaxy UGC 1810 and UGC 1813.
- ❖ UGC 1810 is five times heavier than UGS 1813.



- ❖ The UGC 1810 has a disc that is tidally distorted into a rose like shape.
- ❖ The distortion is mainly due to the gravitational pull of UGC 1813 that lies beneath.
- ❖ This has been captured by Hubble Space Telescope.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

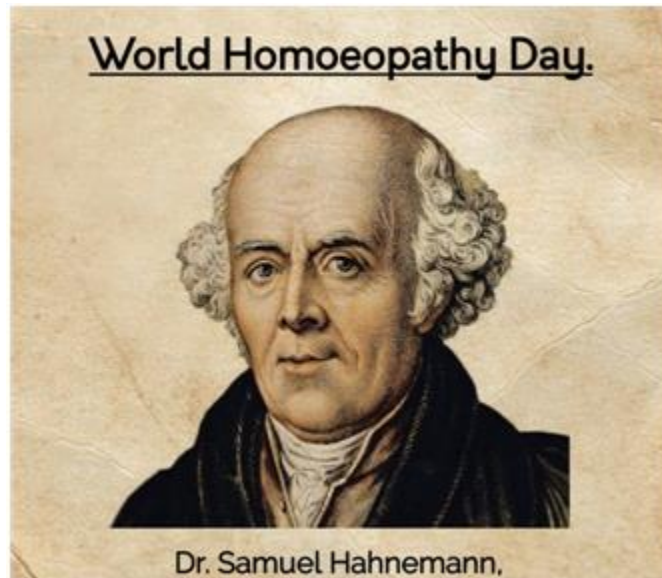
### **Sankha Ghosh**

- ❖ Celebrated Bengali poet Sankha Ghosh died recently at 89 years.
- ❖ Sankha Ghosh is a recipient of the Jnanpith and Sahitya Akademi awards.
- ❖ Sankha Ghosh received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977 for Babar-er Prarthana.
- ❖ He was honoured with a second Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999.
- ❖ In 2011, Sankha Ghosh was conferred with the Padma Bhushan.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **World Homeopathy awareness week**

- ❖ Homoeopathy Awareness Week is from April 10 to April 16, 2021.
- ❖ It is observed to celebrate the birth of Samuel Hahnemann.
- ❖ He is the father of Homoeopathy.





### **World Book and Copyright Day - April 23**

- ❖ World Book Day is celebrated by UNESCO.
- ❖ April 23 is a symbolic date for world literature.
- ❖ This is because on this date in 1616 that Cervantes, Shakespeare, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
- ❖ Hence, the day was selected to pay tribute to the great literary figures.
- ❖ Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia, has been chosen to be the World Book Capital in 2021.
- ❖ 'To share a story' would be the theme of this year's World Book and Copyright Day, keeping the pandemic in mind.
- ❖ As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day, UNESCO has created a 'Bookface' challenge.

### **English Language Day - April 23**

- ❖ This day at the UN is the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare.
- ❖ The Day is the result of a 2010 initiative by the Department of Global Communications, establishing language days for each of the Organization's six official languages.
- ❖ The UN's language days are as follows
  - Arabic (18 December)
  - Chinese (20 April)
  - English (23 April)
  - French (20 March)
  - Russian (6 June)
  - Spanish (23 April)

