

April – 04

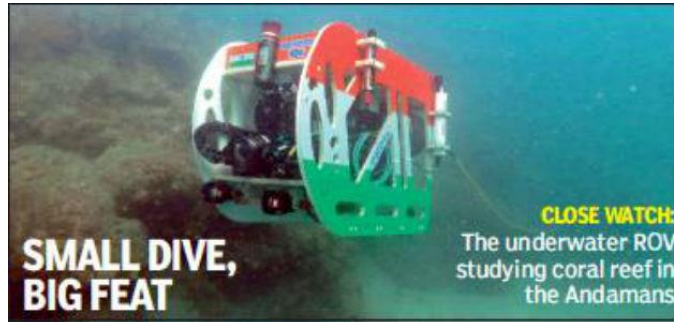
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's Manu Sawhney on April 1, 2019 took charge as the new Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council. He is also a Non-executive Director and member of the Audit Committee of Manchester United Ltd.
- ❖ As per the Reserve Bank of India, all branches of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank are functioning as branches of Bank of Baroda with effect from April 1, 2019. Customers of these two merged banks will be treated as customers of Bank of Baroda.
- ❖ Reliance Jio Digital Services has acquired Haptik Infotech, a conversational artificial intelligence (AI) platform to build India's largest AI assistant company across chat, voice and regional languages.
- ❖ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Nicholas Koumjian, an American prosecutor, as head of a mission that will investigate alleged human rights violations on minority Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.
- ❖ A report by OpenSignal, a company that specializes in wireless coverage mapping has declared that Dhanbad has the highest 4G availability in India (95.3% coverage) followed by Ranchi which has 95% of 4G Availability.

TAMIL NADU

Remotely Operated Vehicle

- ❖ An indigenous underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) has been developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- ❖ It has been given "National Meritorious Invention Award" by National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), under Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ This ROV has helped Indian scientists to conduct climate change studies in the coral reefs of the Andamans, sea weeds in the Arabian Sea and also in Priyadharshini lake, Antarctica.



**SMALL DIVE,
BIG FEAT**

CLOSE WATCH:
The underwater ROV
studying coral reef in
the Andamans

- National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has designed, tested and commissioned the ROV, which can operate in polar water and Open Ocean up to a 500-m depth
- Equipped with low-cost navigation, high definition imaging devices and communication system
- Major sensors— **Scanning sonar, CTD-DO (Conductivity Temperature Depth-Dissolved Oxygen)**
- ROV used for climate change studies in Antarctica, monitor coral reef in the Andamans and monitoring seaweed in Arabian Sea, search support in Open Ocean environment for Indian ports and defence sectors

NATIONAL

Seahawk Helicopter

- ❖ The US has approved the sale of 24 multi-role MH-60 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopters to India.
- ❖ The Lockheed Martin company build helicopters are designed for anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, surveillance, communications relay, combat search and rescue, naval gunfire support and logistics support.

COMCASA

- ❖ The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) was signed in 2018 during India and USA 2 + 2 dialogue.
- ❖ It paves the way for transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India.
- ❖ Under this pact, the first-ever secure communication link between the Indian Naval Headquarters and the US Central as well as Pacific Naval Commands has been established.
- ❖ It enables India to,

- Obtain critical defence technologies from the USA,
- Gain access to critical communication network of the US armed forces and real-time American intelligence.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Report on Food Crises

- ❖ The European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) jointly presented a report on global food crises.
- ❖ It finds that around 113 million people in 53 countries experienced acute food insecurity in 2018.



- ❖ Nearly two-thirds of those facing acute hunger are in just 8 countries: Afghanistan, Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.
- ❖ Acute food insecurity is the most extreme form of hunger.

ECONOMY

Ways and Means advances

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India, has decided that the limits for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the first half of the financial year 2019-20 will be Rs 75000 crore.
- ❖ The interest rate on WMA will be Repo Rate and overdraft will be 2% above the Repo Rate.

- ❖ RBI in consultation with Central Government can provide an overdraft facility when the WMA limit is breached.
- ❖ Ways and Means Advances is the temporary loan facility provided by the RBI to the centre and state governments.
- ❖ The WMA scheme was introduced in 1997 to meet any temporary mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.

Anti-dumping duty

- ❖ India has levied anti-dumping duty worth up to USD 1,559 per tonne on imports of a components used in solar cell making from China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand for five years.
- ❖ Ethylene Vinyl Acetate sheet is imported cheaply from these countries, stifling domestic manufacturers of solar PV (Photo Voltaic) modules.
- ❖ The anti-dumping duty has been imposed based on the recommendations of the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
- ❖ Anti-dumping duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers.

ENVIRONMENT

e-Waste Economy

- ❖ International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank group organised a conference on “e-Waste Management in India: The Way Forward”.
- ❖ The significant potential of e-waste to contribute to the country's economy and generate employment was highlighted.



- ❖ The electronic waste sector is expected to create 4.5 lakh direct jobs by 2025 and another 1.8 lakh jobs in the allied sectors of transportation and manufacturing.
- ❖ Electronic waste or e-waste is discarded electrical or electronic devices.

EURO VI Fuel

- ❖ In addition to Delhi, all the cities in NCR (National Capital Region) and the adjoining Agra city are mandated to run on the clean Euro-VI grade petrol and diesel only.
- ❖ Euro-VI grade fuel contains 10 ppm of sulphur as against 50 ppm in Euro-IV fuels.

SPORTS

Asian Airgun Championships

- ❖ India ended the 12th Asian Airgun Championships 2019 in Taiyuan, Taipei, with an overall tally of 25 medals including 16 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze.
- ❖ Yash Vardhan and Shreya Agrawal struck gold in the men's and women's junior 10m air rifle event respectively.

CHESSE

- ❖ 13-years old Divya Deshmukh is now World no. 1 in the Under-14 girls' section.
- ❖ She becomes the second Indian after Koneru Humpy to hold the rank.

ICC Test Rankings

- ❖ India has retained the ICC Test Championship Mace and won the purse of \$ 1 million for a third continuous year after finishing at the top of ICC Test Team Rankings on the cut-off date of 1 April,2019.



ICC Test Rankings

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	41	4,983	122
2	South Africa	37	4,020	109
3	Australia	49	5,302	108
4	England	50	5,071	101
5	Pakistan	36	3,494	97
6	New Zealand	45	4,339	96
7	Sri Lanka	42	3,761	90
8	West Indies	30	2,077	69
9	Bangladesh	22	1,444	66
10	Zimbabwe	10	48	5

Azlan Shah Hockey Cup

- ❖ 17th Ranked South Korea defeated World number 5, India to win the 28th edition of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup which was held at Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia.
- ❖ India lost the match by 4-2 in the penalty shootout.
- ❖ It began in 1983 as a biennial contest.
- ❖ The tournament became an annual event after 1998, following its growth and popularity.
- ❖ The tournament is named after the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah, an avid fan of field hockey.
