

April – 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian team from KIET Group of Institutions has won the 2019 ‘AIAA Neil Armstrong Best Design Award’ in the 25th Annual Rover Challenge held at the US Space and Rocket Center in Alabama.
 - AIAA - American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

INTERNATIONAL

Artificial Intelligence Summit

- ❖ UAE is set to host the world’s foremost Artificial Intelligence Summit called ‘AI Everything’ to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society
- ❖ It will be hosted by the UAE National Programme for Artificial Intelligence, with the support of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), and in strategic partnership with Smart Dubai.

ECONOMY

Amazon – China

- ❖ Amazon has announced that it is closing its domestic e-commerce business in China.
- ❖ Amazon sells less in the country than in Japan, the smallest market that it does report.
- ❖ Amazon bought its way into China in 2004 with a takeover of Joyo.com
- ❖ Amazon rebranded the Joyo business in 2011 to Amazon China.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Digital Health Technology guidelines

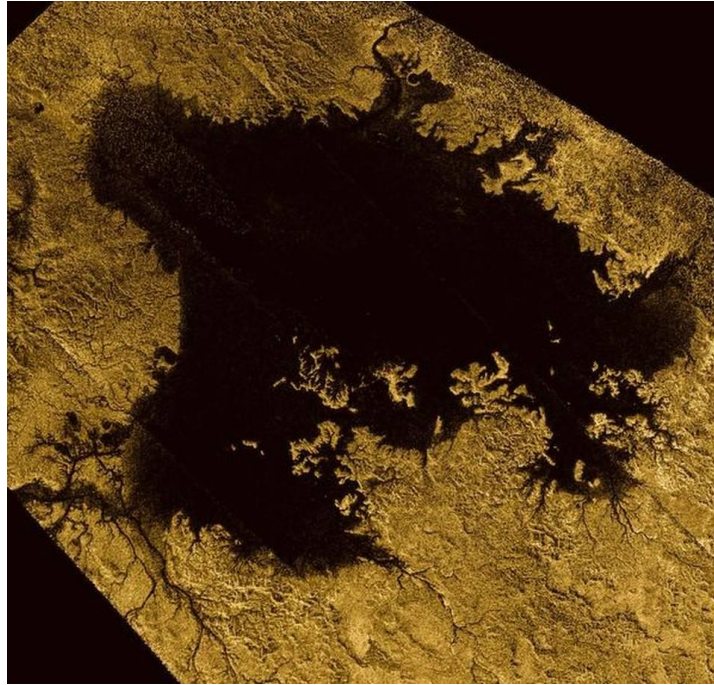
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) on April 17, 2019, released new recommendations on 10 ways that countries can use digital health technology.
- ❖ It aims to make health services accessible via mobile phones, tablets and computers, to improve people's health and essential services.
- ❖ The guidelines emphasise the importance of reaching vulnerable populations and ensuring that digital health does not endanger them in any way.

HD 21749c

- ❖ NASA's TESS has detected a new exoplanet called HD 21749c.
- ❖ TESS - Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite
- ❖ The newly identified exoplanet is 52 light years away, orbiting a star called HD 21749.
- ❖ The star also hosts a second planet HD 21749b
- ❖ HD 21749b has about 23 times Earth's mass and a radius of about 2.7 times Earth's
- ❖ HD 21749c is roughly the size of Earth and orbits the star in just 7.8 Earth days.

Methane lake – Saturn

- ❖ Saturn's largest moon is called Titan
- ❖ Titan has small liquid lakes that run more than 100 metres deep.
- ❖ According to scientists Ligeia Mare - the second largest known body of liquid on Titan is filled with Methane.
- ❖ The data is provided by NASA's Cassini spacecraft
- ❖ Titan and Earth are the solar system's two places with standing bodies of liquid on the surface.



- ❖ Titan has a diameter of 5,150 km It is the solar system's second largest moon
- ❖ Jupiter's Ganymede is the largest moon in solar system.

GSLV-Phase 4

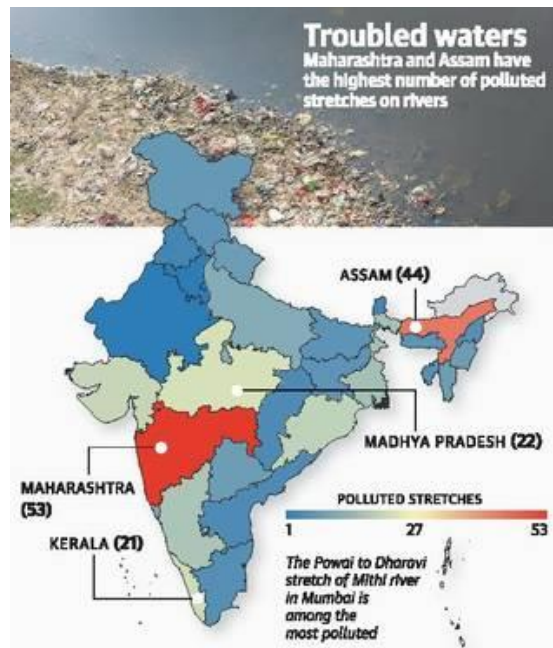
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the ongoing Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) programme phase-4.
- ❖ GSLV Phase-4 has five rocket flights during 2021-2024.
- ❖ The continuation programme will meet the demand for the launch of satellites at a frequency up to two launches per year.
- ❖ The GSLV continuation programme was initially sanctioned in 2003
- ❖ The GSLV continuation programme is expected to meet the launch requirement of satellites for critical satellite services and India's future space missions.

ENVIRONMENT

Central Monitoring Committee – Polluted Rivers

- ❖ The NGT has formed a Central Monitoring Committee to prepare and enforce a national plan to make over 350 river stretches across the country pollution free.

- ❖ According to an assessment by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the most significant stretches of pollution include,
 - Mithi river — from Powai to Dharavi
 - Godavari — from Someshwar to Rahed
 - Sabarmati — Kheroj to Vautha
 - Hindon — Saharanpur to Ghaziabad



Background

- ❖ The CPCB, since the 1990s, has a programme to monitor the quality of rivers primarily by measuring BOD
- ❖ Biochemical Oxygen Demand - Amount of dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in water.
- ❖ Higher BOD means the river is worse.

STATES

Interactive Bird Park – Mumbai

- ❖ Essel World has launched an interactive bird park in Gorai (in Mumbai).
- ❖ This is the first bird park in India to host three different varieties of birds – aquatic, terrestrial and free flying birds.



- ❖ It is home to over 400 exotic birds from more than 50 species.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Goodwill Ambassador - Street Child Cricket

- ❖ Mithali Raj has been named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup.



- ❖ Mithali joins ex-captain Saurav Ganguly and IPL team Rajasthan Royals in supporting the team.

A.K.Singh - Lifetime Achievement Award

- ❖ Dr A.K.Singh was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.
- ❖ Dr A.K.Singh is the director at Life Sciences at Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ The scientist has more than 18 patents and has contributed in more than 57 research publications at an international and national level.
- ❖ He has developed a “Diagnobact” kit, for detection of infectious lesion.
- ❖ He has also introduced and nurtured pharmacosyntigraphy - application of nuclear medicine imaging in drug research.
- ❖ The conclave was organised by the university to mark World Creativity and Innovation Day.

World Creativity and Innovation Day – April 21

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly had adopted April 21 as World Creativity and Innovation Day in the year 2002.
- ❖ It is celebrated to raise awareness of the role of creativity and innovation in problem-solving and by extension, in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ The day is Observed six days after Leonardo da Vinci’s birthday and one day before International Mother Earth Day.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Haemophilia Day – April 17

- ❖ Haemophilia is a rare genetic bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly. As a result, the inherent of Haemophilia suffers from spontaneous and bleed for a longer time after sustaining an injury.
- ❖ Every April 17 World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- ❖ World Haemophilia Day was started in 1989 by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH)

Quick Facts

- ❖ Every injury is not always life-threatening. Hemophilia patients bleed because a protein, called 'Clotting Factor', is either absent or doesn't work properly in their blood.
 - ❖ While most people assume hemophilia only affects men, occasionally women - who are 'silent carriers' - can suffer bleeding symptoms as well.
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