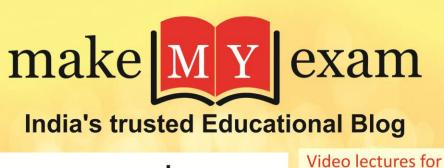


Weekly Current Affairs

21 April – 27 April, 2019





















Analysis

all subjects

Debates & discussions

Current Affairs bulletin

Exam Notification &

Pre Exam Training

Success Stories

Live Interview Sessions Group discussons





National News

1. Election Commission launches Voter Turnout app on Google Play Store

- ♣ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a new mobile app for the voters across the country to see the realtime availability of voter turnout during the election season in the country.
- ♣ The beta version of the ECI's Voter Turnout app is available for download on the Google Play Store and as of now it has been downloaded over 5,000 times.
- → This app would increase transparency of information pertaining to the voter turnout in public while ensuring that the same information is available easily for the media.

2. Ministry of AYUSH inked Memorandum of Understanding with CSIR

- 4 The Ministry of AYUSHinked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.
- ↓ Under the agreement, both CSIR and Ayush Ministry jointly endeavour to proceed in the activities likeresearch and Development.
- The Ministry and CSIR aims to bring the organisations under an umbrella understanding for pursuing focused R&D efforts in the domain.

3. Reliance retail became 1st Indian retail company to cross Rs 1 lakh crore in annual revenues

- → The retail venture of Reliance Industries reported an income of Rs 1,30,556 crore for 2018-19, 89% more than the previous year's Rs 69,198 crore.
- ♣ Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Retail also became the first Indian retailer to cross more than 10,000 stores. It operates 10,415 retail stores in more than 6,600 cities and towns, covering an area of over 22 million sq ft, as on March 31.

4. First edition of Naval Commanders' Conference scheduled at New Delhi

- ♣ The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 is all set to begin in New Delhi from April 23.
- ♣ The conference, which would continue till April 25, is the apex forum within the Service for interaction between the Naval Commanders.
- → The Conference assumes greater significance in the backdrop of Pulwama associated events that have brought country's defence under sharper focus.
- ♣ The themes 'Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' would form the core of discussions towards finalising long term road map for the IN.



5. Iran, Pakistan to set up border 'reaction force' after attacks

- ♣ Iran and Pakistan have agreed to set up a joint border "reaction force" following a spate of deadly attacks by militant groups on their frontier.
- ♣ The border skirts the volatile southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchistan which has been the scene of frequent attacks on Iran's security forces.
- ♣ Pakistan is a close ally of the United States and Saudi Arabia, both of which have ratcheted up pressure on Iran over its alleged meddling in regional affairs.

6. SEBI reduces minimum subscription requirement for InvITs, REITs

- ♣ Markets regulator Sebi has reduced the minimum subscription requirement as well as defined trading lots for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).
- ♣ The minimum value of a single lot should be Rs 1 lakh in the case of InvITs.
- ♣ The amendments are aimed at providing flexibility to the issuers in terms of fundraising and increasing the access of these investment vehicles to investors.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. India Rises To 17th Spot From 37th in StartupBlink's Startup Ecosystem Ranking

- ♣ India ranks 17 globally among 100 countries, based on the strength of its startup ecosystem, according to StartupBlink, which tracks startup ecosystems on a number of parameters.
- ♣ In terms of global rankings, the top three spots remained unchanged with the United States, United Kingdom and Canada taking the first, second and third rank respectively.
- ♣ Bengaluru, New Delhi, and Mumbai are the cities with the most vibrant startup ecosystems in India.

2. India Is Ranked At 19 Out Of 28 Countries In The Index Of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)

- ♣ India is ranked at 19 out of 28 countries in the Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ♣ Australia tops the ICP, followed by the Netherlands and Germany.
- ♣ Its objective To allow benchmarking of national efforts and identify best practice in addressing the cancer challenge.



3. India and France to hold largest ever 'Varuna' naval exercise off Goa coast

- ♣ With the objective of expanding their strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean region (IOR), India and France will conduct their largest ever naval exercise 'Varuna'.
- ♣ The exercise is expected to involve aircraft carriers, destroyer ships, submarines and also fighter planes, thus making it a mega event to happen in the history of relationship between the two nations.
- ♣ The Indian participation will also include the destroyer INS Mumbai, frigate INS Trikand with their integral helicopters, IN submarine Kalvari, P8-I aircrafts and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft.

4. Saudi Arabia increases India's Haj Quota to 2 lakh

- ♣ Saudi Arabia has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to two lakhs from one lakh seventy five-thousand.
- → The decision will ensure that all the Haj applicants from big states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar can embark pilgrimage this year as their waiting lists have been cleared due to the increase in quota.
- ♣ This year, the GST on Haj pilgrimage has been reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.

5. India to be guest country at Abu Dhabi book fair

- ≠ 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) started and will conclude on 30th April at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.
- 4 The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcase its authenticity, and cultural. The fair will involve over 1000 participants from more than 50 countries and 30 publishing houses from India are taking part in the fair.
- ♣ India has been selected as the official guest of honour for this year's book fair, with at least 40 Indian publishing companies set to take part.

6. World's first malaria vaccine launched in Africa

- ♣ The world's first malaria vaccine has been rolled out in Malawi to protect 360,000 children under two in Malawi, Kenya and Ghana in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ♣ This vaccine called RTS,S is one of the few immunizations designed and launched specifically to help young children in Africa.
- ♣ The vaccine took more than 30 years and more than \$500 million to develop. It was an international collaboration among WHO, PATH, the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline and a network of African countries.

7. Russia successfully tests world's first floating nuclear power plant 'Akademik Lomonosov'

Russia has successfully tested the world's first floating nuclear power plant (NPP), a subsidiary of Rosatom nuclear corporation.



- ♣ Akademik Lomonosov is 144 metres in length, 30 metres wide and has a displacement of 21,000 tonnes.
- ♣ These tests confirmed the operational stability of the main and auxiliary equipment of the plant, as well as the automatic process control systems.

8. Indonesia releases special stamp on theme of Ramayana

- ♣ Indonesiareleased a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.
- 4 The stamp, designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta, featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.
- 4 A specially signed version of the stamp will be on display at the Philately Museum in Jakarta.

9. WHO issues first-ever screen time guidelines for children under 5

- ♣ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released new guidelines on physical activity, sedentary and sleep for children under 5 years of age.
- ♣ The UN health agency also issued its first-ever guidance for how much screen time children should be allowed limited and none at all for one-year-olds.
- The guidelines are designed to reduce inactive behaviour and thereby overcome obesity, overweight, diabetes, hypertension and some forms of cancer.

10. Microsoft becomes world's third company to be worth \$1 trillion

- Microsoft has reached a valuation of one trillion dollars for the first time after posting a 19pc increase in profits.
- ♣ It makes the software giant only the third publicly-traded company in history to reach the threshold, after Apple and Amazon passed it last year.
- 4 Apple and Amazon are the only companies to have previously cracked the trillion-dollar milestone, before their shares plummeted, along with global markets in late-2018.

11. Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un hold first-ever talks

- Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un holds first-ever talks at the Far Eastern Federal University Campus.
- ♣ The talks involve China, Japan, Russia, the US along with North Korea and South Korea.
- ♣ The aim of this meeting is to break the deadlock over North Korea's nuclear weapons programme.

12. Etihad becomes first airline in the Gulf to operate plastic-free flight

♣ The UAE's flag carrier Etihad Airways has become the first airline in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board, in a bid to raise awareness about pollution on Earth Day.



- ♣ The milestone flight is part of Etihad's pledge to reduce single-use plastic usage by 80 per cent not just in-flight, but across the entire organisation by the end of 2022.
- ♣ According to the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the UAE, the flight EY484 landed in Brisbane on April 22, Earth Day.

Banking

1. Airtel Payments Bank partners with Bharti AXA General Insurance for twowheeler insurance

- ♣ Airtel Payments Bank announced it has teamed up with Bharti AXA General Insurance for a two-wheeler insurance product offering.
- ♣ The offering entails personal accident cover, protection against third-party liabilities and inspection-free renewal through a fast, paperless process.
- ♣ Sanjeev Srinivasan, managing director and chief executive officer of Bharti AXA General Insurance, said the partnership shall provide the company a massive reach and help offer cost-effective two-wheeler insurance to a wider audience.

2. Bajaj Allianz launches Total Health Secure Goal plan

- ♣ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance in collaborationlaunched their first product 'Total Health Secure Goal'.
- The new insurance product is a combination of two existing plans Health Guard policy by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, and iSecure from Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.
- ♣ This insurance plan is designed to take care of customers' health and life goals, through one comprehensive insurance policy.

3. Govt raises authorised capital of Allahabad Bank to Rs 8,000 cr

- ♣ State-owned Allahabad Bank government has increased its authorised capital by Rs 500 crore to 8000 Crore.
- ♣ The increase in authorised capital will help enable the bank to raise further fund up to a maximum ceiling of Rs 8,000 crore.
- ♣ Allahabad Bank Headquarter- Kolkata

4. Money Loji' launches App that offers loans to salaried professionals within 5 minutes

- 4 Money Loji, a modern money lending platform, has launched its App, which offers quickest and the most secure loans to salaried professionals for an immediate requirement and repayment options starting from 7 days to a maximum of 90 days.
- ♣ They follow a unique three-step process application, approval, disbursement, which is carried out within 3-4 minutes.



♣ The eligibility criterion is a minimum in-hand salary of Rs 20,000 per month and a minimum age of 23 years.

5. IndusInd Bank receives NCLT approval for merger with Bharat Financial Inclusion

- ▶ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved merger of private sector lender IndusInd Bank with Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL), a microfinance company.
- ♣ IndusInd Bank Ltd's share price is currently at Rs1,686.85, up by Rs32.25 or 1.95%, from its previous close of Rs1,654.60 on the BSE.

6. SBI Launches Green Car Loan on The Occasion of World Earth Day

- ♣ In an effort to encourage customers to buy electric vehicle, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle).
- → The scheme comes with the longest repayment period of up to eight years is a strategic inclusion to the bank's auto loan segment would be offered with zero processing fee for the first six months of the launch.
- Bankwill offer loan at 20 bps lesser than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Dubai based 'RAKEZ' appointed Cricket Champion Ravi Shastri as a Corporate Ambassador

- 4 "Champion of Champions", Former Cricketer Ravi Shastri appointed as Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community.
- A Ravi Shastri played for the India National Cricket Team between 1981 and 1992 in both Tests and One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and was a member of India's World Cup winning team in 1983.
- Ravi Shastri played for the India National Cricket Team between 1981 and 1992 in both Tests and One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and was a member of India's World Cup winning team in 1983.

2. Hamied elected Honorary Fellow of Royal Society

- **↓** Cipla chairman Yusuf Hamied has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society, U.K. for his service to the cause of science.
- ♣ The Society is a Fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.



♣ Dr. Hamied graduated with honours from Cambridge University in 1957 and continued a Ph.D in 1960 under the tutelage of Nobel Laureate Alexander Todd.

3. Twitter appoints Manish Maheshwari as new India MD

- Twitter announced that it has appointed Manish Maheshwari as the new managing director for India.
- Last year, Taranjeet Singh had stepped down as the India Country Director and Balaji Krish was given charge of leading the country's operations in the interim period.
- ♣ India is among one of the biggest markets for internet companies like Facebook, Google and Twitter, given the large base of young population.

4. Nasim Zaidi resigns as non-independent director of Jet Airways board

- ♣ Jet Airwaysnon-executive and non-independent director Nasim Zaidi has quit the board, citing personal reasons and time constraints.
- ♣ Zaidi, the former Chief Election Commissioner of India (ECI) and ex-civil aviation secretary, joined the Jet Airways board in August last year.
- 4 Jet Airways temporarily ceased all its operations, and now is under the management control of State Bank of India-led consortium of lenders following a debt-recast plan approved by its board.

5. Karnam Sekar has been appointed as Indian Overseas Bank's new MD & CEO

- → Dena Bank's former Managing Director Karnam Sekar has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.
- 4 At Indian Overseas Bank, he will take over the charge from R Subramaniakumar, who had played a pivotal role in initiating measures to turn around the bank, which has been reporting loses owing to high Non-Performing Assets.
- ♣ Earlier, he was associated with the State Bank of India (SBI) as its Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer heading its highest Credit Committee.

6. Ex-Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag named Indian High Commissioner to Seychelles

- Former Indian Army Chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles.
- 4 Dalbir Singh Suhag was the Army Chief when the Special Forces commandoes of the Indian Army conducted surgical strikes at terrorist launch pads inside Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- ♣ The strikes took place in the aftermath of the terrorist attack at an Army Camp in Uri, in which at least 20 soldiers of the Indian Army lost their lives.



7. Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as COO of LIC Housing Finance

- Siddhartha Mohanty has been appointed as its chief operating officer by LIC Housing Finance.
- ♣ Mohanty started his career as a direct recruit officer with LIC of India in 1985 and has risen through the ranks to this senior position.
- ♣ Prior to taking over as the position, he was executive director with LIC of India.

Science Tech & Defence

1. Antares Rocket Takes off for International Space Station with Essential NASA Supply

- 4 A US rocket has been launched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's Eastern Shore, carrying cargo with the space agency's re-supply mission for the International Space Station (ISS).
- ♣ The Antares rocket built by Northrop Grumman lifted off, carrying the Cygnus cargo spacecraft to the ISS.
- The spacecraft will remain attached to the space station for approximately two months before departing with up to 7,700 pounds (about 3,500 kg) of cargo for disposal

2. Navy chief launches new guided missile destroyer 'INS Imphal'

- ♣ Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba launched the third ship of Project 15B, a guided missile destroyer Imphal, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai.
- → The launch marks yet another significant milestone in the annals of the indigenous warship design and construction programme of India.
- ♣ With a launch weight of 3,037 tonnes, the vessel made its first contact with water with full fanfare during the launching ceremony.
- ♣ Each ship spans 163 metres in length and 17.4 metres at beam and displaces 7,300 tonnes.

3. BSE ties up with Network Intelligence to provide security services to its members

- ♣ BSE, India's largest stock exchange has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Network Intelligence, a global cybersecurity services provider to provide cybersecurity services to its members in line with the cybersecurity framework set by SEBI.
- ♣ Aim is to safeguard the interests of our stock brokers and robust cyber security in place.
- ♣ Network Intelligence will be using its own developed platform BlueScope to offer 24×7 cybersecurity operations to the members.



4. Army starts process to induct women as jawans in military police

- Opening up a new avenue for females, the Indian Army kicked off the process of inducting women as jawans by starting their online registration for recruitment in the corps of military police.
- ♣ Women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20 per cent of total Corps of Military Police and their role would range from probing crime cases to assisting the Army in field operations.
- ♣ Currently, women are allowed in select areas such as medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army.

5. Japan succeeds in creating world's 1st man-made crater on asteroid

- ♣ Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe has successfully created a man-made crater on an asteroid that altered the body's terrain in a historical first.
- ♣ Hayabusa2 had shot a projectile at the Ryugu asteroid around 340 million kilometers from Earth as part of the probe's mission to explore the origin of life and the evolution of the solar system.
- ♣ The mission was launched in December 2014 and is scheduled to return to Earth with its samples in 2020 with a total cost of around 30 billion yen.

1ake Important days Xam

1. World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed on 21 April

- ♣ World Creativity Day is observed on 21 April. World Creativity and Innovation Day is well positioned to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking to help us achieve the sustainable future we want.
- ◆ On 27th April 2017, the United Nations (UN) recognized 21st April as an official World Creativity and Innovation Day and 2018 marks the first year the UN was observed WCID.

2. World Earth Day observed on 22 April

- ♣ Each year, Earth Day—April 22—marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.
- ♣ For the year 2019, the Earth Day theme is 'Protect our Species'
- ♣ On April 22, 1970, the Environmental Teach-In held a nationwide day of environmental education and activism that it called Earth Day.

3. April 23 observed as a World Book and Copyright Day

♣ The World Book and Copyright Day was observed across the world on April 23, 2019 to highlight the power of books and to promote UNESCO's vision of



- knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all citizens.
- ♣ The 24th edition of World Book Day will celebrate literature and reading while laying emphasis on the importance of enhancing and protecting Indigenous languages.
- ♣ The Day pays tribute to books and authors by encouraging everyone to discover the pleasure of reading.

4. World Malaria Day 2019 observed on 25 April

- ♣ World Malaria Day is observed each year on 25th April to recognise the global efforts made to control the vector-borne disease.
- ♣ World Malaria Day 2019 theme is 'Zero malaria'
- ♣ According to the WHO's latest World Malaria Report, no significant gains were made in reducing malaria cases between 2015 and 2017.

5. World Immunization Week 2019 observed in April

- ♣ World Immunization week 2019 observed from 24-30 April. The theme of this year's campaign is Protected Together: Vaccines Work!
- World Immunization Week aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.
- Immunization saves millions of lives every year and is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions.

6. World Intellectual Property Day 2019 observed on 26 April

- 4 The World Intellectual Property Day was observed across the world on April 26, 2019 to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights like patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ♣ The theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2019 was "Reach for Gold: IP and Sports".
- 4 This year's theme dives into the world of sports. It explores how innovation, creativity and the IP rights support the development of sport and its enjoyment around the world.

<u>Sports</u>

1. Bajrang Punia wins gold at Asian Wrestling Championship

- ♣ Bajrang Punia opened India's medal tally at the Asian Wrestling Championships with a gold in the 65kg freestyle category, beating Sayatbek Okassov 12-7 in the final
- ♣ Bajrang comfortably defeated Uzbekistan's Sirojiddin Khasanov 12-1 in the semifinals to make it to the gold medal bout of 65kg.



→ The 2019 Asian Wrestling Championships was held in Xi'an, China. The event took place from April 23 to April 28, 2019.

Awards

1. Rana Dasgupta bags 2019 Tagore Literary Prize

- ♣ The second edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel "Solo", a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence.
- ♣ An amount of \$10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate for contribution to literature was given to Dasgupta.
- ♣ TagorePrize is founded and launched with a strong vision to be a platform and a vehicle for improving and inspiring World Peace, Literature, Art and Education.

2. India Wins Two Gold At International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF World

- 4 Young Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary shot gold in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing.
- → Bhaker and Chaudhary outclassed Jiang Ranxin and Pang Wei of China 16-6 in the final, which was held in the new format wherein top two teams battled for the gold medal.

Obituaries

1. Eminent Bengali folk singer Amar Paul dead

- ♣ Eminent Bengali folk singer Amar Paul passed awayin a hospital following a cardiac arrest.
- ♣ He surfaced as a folk singer for the All India Radio in the early 1950s.
- ♣ Paul lent his voice in a number of films including Satyajit Ray's "Hirak Rajar Deshe".He has penned several books on folk songs of Bengal and received accolades from various academies around the world.

LIST OF ALL INDIA TOPPERS FROM IBT SUBHOJIT CHAKRABORTY SACHIN ZANWAR SHALINI SINGH **LOVE GUPTA** MOHA VASHISTHA AASTHA SIHAG SBI PO - 2016 SBI PO - 2018 IBPS PO - 2017 SSC CGL - INSPECTOR SSC CGL - INSPECTOR SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No.: 3840729596 Roll No.: 38407295966 Roll No.: 2550139022 Roll No.: 1580179828 Roll No.: 2201295176 Roll No.: 2201399971