



CURRENT AFFAIRS

8th April 2021

Today's Important News

India hosted First Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers
and Central Bank Governors April 6, 2021

1. India hosted First Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors April 6, 2021

- India hosted a Meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors virtually on April 6, 2021. The meeting was jointly chaired by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Shri. Shaktikanta Das. Participants included Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the BRICS countries.
- As 2021 BRICS Chair, India's approach is focused on strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation based on Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.



About BRICS:

BRICS is the acronym of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The first BRICS summit was held in the year in 2009 in Russia. In 2010, South Africa joined the BRICS grouping. Earlier to this, the grouping was called BRIC.

The association holds more than 40% of global population and 25% of global GDP.

In 2020, the New Development Bank of BRICS approved 1 billion USD. It was COVID-19 Emergency Programme Loan for supporting India's Economic Recovery.

Foot Notes:

Founded: June 2006

Headquarters: Shanghai, China

Leader: Lesetja Kganyago

Founders: China, Brazil, Russia

2. Kosovo parliament elected Vjosa Osmani as a new president

- Politicians in Kosovo elected and swore in a new president on 4th April, 2021 for a five-year term, the Balkan nation's seventh president, and second female leader, in the post-war period.
- The 120-seat parliament, which convened in an extraordinary session for two days, gave 71 votes for Vjosa Osmani, a 38-year-old former parliamentary speaker, in the third round of voting, while 11 votes were invalid.
- In November, Osmani temporarily replaced former President Hashim Thaci, an armed group leader during Kosovo's war for independence from Serbia in the late 1990s, who resigned after facing charges for war crimes and crimes against humanity at a special court based in The Hague.
- Osmani's initial mandate expired when the new government of Prime Minister Albin Kurti, the left-wing Self-Determination Movement, or Vetevendosje, took over following the February 14 election.



Foot Notes:

About Kosovo:

Capital: Pristina

Currency: Euro

3. FDA approves first new ADHD drug in over a decade for children

- The Food and Drug Administration late 2nd April approved Qelbree (KELL'-bree for treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children ages 6 to 17. It comes as a capsule that's taken daily.
- Unlike nearly all other ADHD medicines, Qelbree is not a stimulant or a controlled substance, making it harder to abuse than older drugs. That's been a problem with earlier ADHD treatments like Ritalin, nearly all of which contain the stimulants amphetamine or methylphenidate.



ADHD in the U.S

ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) affects more than six million American children and adolescents in the United States. These children struggle to pay attention and complete tasks. They also show signs of impulsiveness and fidgeting.

ADHD in India

ADHD affects 2% to 7% of children globally. In India more male children were found to have ADHD. 83.3% of the patients in India discontinue taking their medicines within the first month.

Foot Notes:

About FDA:

Founded: 30 June 1906

Officeholder: Janet Woodcock

Founders: Theodore Roosevelt, Harvey Washington Wiley

4.RBI extends interim WMAs limit of Rs. 51,560 crore to states till September

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 7th April announced an extension of interim ways and means advances (WMAs) limit of Rs. 51,560 crore to state governments till September, to help them tide over the financial stress posed by the second wave of Covid-19.
- WMAs are temporary advances given by the RBI to the states to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments.
- There are two types of WMAs – normal and special. While normal WMA are clean advances, special WMA are secured advances provided against the pledge of the government of India dated securities.
- In addition, RBI has enhanced the aggregate WMAs limit of states and Union Territories (UTs) to Rs. 47,010 crore per year.



Foot Notes:

About RBI:

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

5.RBI to publish Financial Inclusion (FI) Index annually

- To measure the extent of financial inclusion in the country, the Reserve Bank of India will construct and periodically publish a "Financial Inclusion Index" (FI Index).
- The FI Index would be based on multiple parameters and shall reflect the broadening and deepening of financial inclusion in the country.



- To begin with, the FI Index will be published annually in July for the financial year ending previous March.

6. DRDO develops advanced chaff technology to safeguard naval ships against missile attacks

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard the naval ships against enemy missile attacks.
- Defence Laboratory Jodhpur (DLJ), a DRDO laboratory, has indigenously developed three variants of this critical technology namely Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium-Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR) meeting Indian Navy's qualitative requirements.
- The successful development of Advanced Chaff Technology by DLJ is another step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Recently, the Indian Navy conducted trials of all three variants in the Arabian Sea on Indian Naval Ship and found the performance satisfactory.



Foot Notes:

About DRDO:

Founded: 1958

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Dr. G Satheesh Reddy

7. NASA's Ingenuity helicopter dropped on Mars' surface ahead of flight

- NASA's Ingenuity mini-helicopter has been dropped on the surface of Mars in preparation for its first flight.



Ingenuity Helicopter

Ingenuity is a technology demonstration of powered flight on another planet.

NASA is to perform a series of test flights over thirty Martian days with the help of an Ingenuity helicopter.

The main challenge of Ingenuity Helicopter is that it would have to survive temperatures as low as -130 degrees Fahrenheit.

Perseverance Rover

The Perseverance rover is an astrobiology mission. The mission aims to search for signs of ancient microbial life on Mars.

The mission will characterize the geology and past climate of the planet.

Perseverance is the first mission to collect Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust).

Mars 2020 Mission

Mars 2020 mission was launched in July 2020. It is a part of the Mars Exploration Programme of NASA. Mars 2020 mission was launched from Atlas V Launch vehicle.

Foot Notes:

About NASA:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Founded: 1 October 1958

Administrator: James Frederick “Jim” Bridenstine

8.RXIL becomes first TReDS platform to cross monthly throughput of Rs.1,000 crore

- Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL), leading invoice discounting platform for MSMEs, on 6th April it has crossed monthly transaction volumes of Rs. 1,000 crore in the month of March.
- The growth of transaction volumes from Rs. 69 crore in April 2020, to Rs. 1,105 crore in March 2021 indicates the revival and resumption of the economic activity.
- RXIL has processed close to 5 lakh invoices drawn on over 600 buyers to date from inception in 2017.



RXIL

Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL), is a joint venture promoted by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the apex financial institution for the promotion and financing of MSMEs in India, and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), the premier stock exchange in India.

TReDS

TReDS is an electronic platform that facilitates financing of MSMEs through multiple financiers. The main three participants in the TreDS are MSMEs (sellers), financiers and corporate entities (buyers).

9.Vivo rope in Indian skipper Virat Kohli as brand ambassador

- Chinese smartphone major Vivo has appointed Indian cricketer Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador.



- With the association, Vivo aims to reach the millennials and technologically driven consumers and a 360-degree marketing approach will characterise the company's association with Kohli.
- Apart from this, associating with a sports figure will help the company reach a wider audience, ahead of the IPL 2021.

Foot Notes:

About Vivo:

Founded: 2009, Dongguan, China

CEO: Shen Wei

Headquarters: Dongguan, China

10. Renowned educationist Fatima Zakaria passed away in Aurangabad

- Padmashree awardee Fatima Rafiq Zakaria, renowned journalist, academician and chairman of Maulana Azad Educational Trust and president of Maulana Azad Education Society, passed away on 6th April here at Kamalnayan Bajaj Hospital due old age illness.
- She was 85 years old and is survived by two sons -- Arshad and Fareed (who has recently been conferred the Padma Bhushan Award in Journalism). Both graduated from Harvard and have won great laurels in their respective fields in the United States of America.
- Besides being affiliated to the Maulana Azad Educational Trust and Maulana Azad Education Society, Ms. Zakaria was also executive vice-chairman of the Board of Governors of the Trust's Institute of Hotel Management which is run in collaboration with the Taj Group of Hotels.



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