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APRIL 2 , 2022



INTERNATIONAL

Crude oil purchases from Russia

Synopsis:

- ❖ Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States have imposed outright bans on Russian oil purchases following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, but the European Union remains divided.
- ❖ The bloc's 27 members have been unable to agree on an embargo, with Germany warning against hasty steps that could push the economy into recession, and, some countries, such as Hungary, opposing any bans.



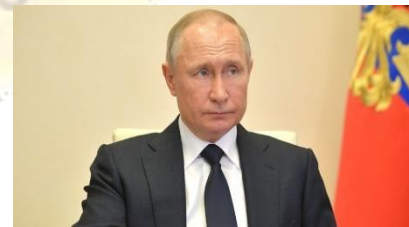
Key Highlights:

- ❖ Russian oil product exports from the Black Sea port of Tuapse in March were just half of those planned, falling to 738,000 tonnes as European buyers stayed away.
- ❖ Meanwhile, India and China, which have refused to condemn Russia's actions, continue to buy Russian crude.
- ❖ Germany, however, aims to phase out Russian oil imports by the end of this year, officials as does Poland.
- ❖ Lured by steep discounts following Western sanctions on Russian entities, India has bought at least 13 million barrels of Russian crude oil since late February.
- ❖ That compared with some 16 million barrels for the whole of 2021, data compiled by Reuters shows.
- ❖ India will continue buying cheap Russian oil in the nation .

Contract terminated if gas is not purchased in Russian currency

Synopsis:

- ❖ Russia has told "unfriendly" foreign countries they must start paying for gas in roubles or it will cut supplies.
- ❖ "Nobody sells us anything for free, and we are not going to do charity either - that is, existing contracts will be stopped," the Russian president



Key Highlights:

- ❖ In light of Western sanctions imposed on Russia as a result of its invasion of Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree outlining the rules for trading gas with hostile countries including a new contract-based payment mechanism.



- ❖ The new law would compel 'unfriendly countries' to pay in rubles for Russian gas. Moreover, the new regulation, which takes effect on April 1, requires 'unfriendly countries' to open accounts in Russian banks
- ❖ Explained how the new energy resource payment system will work. "We offer contractors from such countries a clear and transparent scheme: in order to purchase Russian natural gas, they must open ruble accounts in Russian banks, it is from these accounts that payments will be made for gas delivered starting tomorrow, from April 1 of this year," the Russian president
- ❖ President of the Russian Federation stressed that sanctions would follow for violation of the rhythm of payment.
- ❖ If purchasers from "unfriendly countries" do not fulfil new payment criteria, current gas supply contracts will be terminated, according to the Russian President.
- ❖ Putin's statement on ruble payments, European gas futures skyrocket to \$1450 per 1,000 cubic metres.
- ❖ Furthermore, the French Ministry of Finance has stated that Paris and Berlin will not accept Russia's payment terms for gas supplies in rubles.
- ❖ Notably, while the US has prohibited Russian oil imports, other European countries that rely on Russian energy supplies, such as Germany, continue to buy it.

Russia-Ukraine war:

Synopsis:

- ❖ Russia and Ukraine have held several rounds of negotiations, both in Turkey and Belarus and by video conference. Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered tanks into Russia's pro-Western neighbour and Ukraine estimates 20,000 people have been killed in the war so far. More than 10 million have had to flee their homes.
- ❖ As the Ukraine-Russia war heads into its sixth week, officials have said that Moscow had "verbally" agreed to key Ukrainian proposals..



Key Highlights:

- ❖ The development comes even as Ukraine reclaims control of the 'whole Kyiv region' and Russian forces retreat from certain areas. Top UN official Martin Griffiths is also set to travel to Moscow and then Kyiv today to try and secure a "humanitarian ceasefire" in the war-hit nation
- ❖ Ukraine said that a second round of conflict talks between negotiators from Kyiv and Moscow would take place in Turkey from Monday, just over one month into Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "Today, during another round of video negotiations, it was decided to hold the next in-person round of the two delegations in Turkey on March 28-30," David Arakhamia, a Ukraine negotiator and politician wrote on Facebook.



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President Ram Nath Kovind arrives in Turkmenistan

Synopsis:

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind met his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov on Friday to discuss ways to boost bilateral ties with the resource-rich Central Asian country. This will be the first-ever visit of the President of India to Turkmenistan.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour here on Friday as he began his three-day state visit to Turkmenistan during which he will meet his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedov and discuss ways to boost bilateral ties with the resource-rich Central Asian country.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ This is the first-ever visit of the President of India to independent Turkmenistan and comes just after the inauguration of new Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov
- ❖ "President Kovind arrived in Ashgabat on the first part of his two-nation visit. As per the Turkmen tradition, the President was offered bread and salt by children at the airport," the official Twitter account of the Rashtrapati Bhavan
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs said India attached importance to its relations with Turkmenistan.
- ❖ "The state visit of the president will reaffirm the importance we attach to Turkmenistan, not only bilaterally but also in terms of our extended neighbourhood concept and role in India-Central Asia partnership," Sanjay Verma, Secretary West in the MEA, told reporters in New Delhi
- ❖ "Turkmenistan is also strategically placed in Central Asia and connectivity is something on which we feel partnership with Turkmenistan will pay dividends. We have offered a line of credit worth USD 1 billion to Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan," Verma
- ❖ if the issue of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline could come up during talks
- ❖ He also said Afghanistan will figure in the president's talks with the Turkmen leadership.
- ❖ President Kovind's trip to Turkmenistan will be followed by a state visit to the Netherlands from April 4-7 at the invitation of King Willem-Alexander and Queen



NATIONAL

Prime Minister of Nepal visits India

Synopsis:

- ❖ Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will pay a three-day visit to India from April 1 to inject a new momentum in bilateral ties, especially in areas of trade, investment, healthcare and connectivity, people familiar with the development .
- ❖ It will be Deuba's first bilateral visit abroad after becoming prime minister in July last year for a fifth time following a spell of political turmoil.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ Deuba is slated to hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 2 during which both sides are expected to make a number of announcements to further expand cooperation in select areas.
- ❖ Besides official engagements in Delhi, the Nepalese leader will visit Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Modi.
- ❖ Deuba had visited India in each of his four earlier stints as prime minister of Nepal. His last visit to India in his capacity as the prime minister was in 2017.
- ❖ Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship.
- ❖ The country shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

UNESCO award for Srirangam temple

Synopsis:

- ❖ The massive renovation and restoration effort at the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, executed through the public-private partnership model, has won the UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017 for cultural heritage conservation.
- ❖ Sri RanganThe Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is the first temple in TN to receive a Unesco award



Key Highlights:

- ❖ The renowned Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, which is among the 108 divya desams, has been recognised with an Award of Merit, 2017, from Unesco's Asia Pacific award for cultural heritage conservation.



- ❖ Of the 43 applications from 10 countries across the Asia Pacific region, the Unesco received, the Sri Ranganathaswamy temple is the only
- ❖ religious shrine in south India to bag this award. Mumbai's Christ Church and Royal Bombay Opera House were the other monuments in India that received the Award of Merit this year.
- ❖ The jury comprising of 9 international experts convened from Aug. 9 - 11 at Unesco, Bangkok, and awarded one award of excellence, two awards of distinction, four awards of merit, six honourable mentions and three award for new design in heritage contexts.
- ❖ According to a communiqué from Unesco sent to the temple, dated November 1, the temple has been selected for the Award of Merit for 2017. The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is the first temple in TN to receive a Unesco award.
- ❖ The temple got international recognition for the beautification and renovation work for Rs 20 crore taken up prior to a consecration ceremony in 2015, without affecting its centuries-old heritage.
- ❖ Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services. Nepal's access to the sea is through India, and it imports a predominant proportion of its requirements from and through India. The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.
- ❖ Ties between India and Nepal came under severe strain after Nepal published a new political map in 2020 that showed the three Indian territories - Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh - as part of Nepal.

Appointment of 27 female judges in the High Court for Last one year

Synopsis:

- ❖ The Supreme Court collegium recommended 39 women for appointment as high court judges in the last one year, out of whom 27 were appointed and the remaining 12 cases are under various stages of the process, Lok Sabha was informed
- ❖ Law Minister Kiren Rijju said in the present system of appointment of Supreme Court and HC judges through the collegium system, the onus to provide social diversity and representation to all sections of the society .



Key Highlights:

- ❖ government remains committed to social diversity in the appointment of judges in the higher judiciary and has been requesting chief justices of various high courts that while sending proposals for appointment of judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women to ensure social diversity.



- ❖ "From January 1, 2021 to March 30 this year, Supreme Court Collegium has recommended 39 women for appointment as high court judges, out of which 27 women were appointed and remaining 12 cases are under various stages of processing,"

Model schools in Tamil Nadu on lines of Delhi

Synopsis:

- ❖ Stalin along with his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal visited a Delhi government school where officials briefed the Tamil Nadu chief minister on the change in the education system in the city under the AAP government.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday said his government has been creating model schools in the southern state on the lines of Delhi and invited Arvind Kejriwal to visit them.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ An official informed Stalin that the Delhi government has been spending around 25 per cent of its budget on education consistently for the last six to seven years.
- ❖ In 2014-15, government schools had a pass percentage of 88 in Class 12, which was less than private schools. It increased to 98 per cent in 2019-20 as compared to 92 per cent in private schools,”
- ❖ Stalin - government has been replicating Delhi’s model schools in the southern state. After coming to power in Tamil Nadu, we have been giving the highest priority to the education and medical sectors.
- ❖ Just like how model schools are running in Delhi, we are doing in Tamil Nadu also. We will invite Chief Minister Kejriwal after the completion of work there. He should come, I invite him on the behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu,”
- ❖ Kejriwal told Stalin that principals of government schools are sent for training abroad and teachers are trained in Indian Institutes of Management.
- ❖ Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia told Stalin that the Delhi government is moving children away from rote learning to mindful learning.
- ❖ When Stalin asked about improvement in terms of English, Kejriwal told him that they have tied up with the British Council and the US Embassy to train teachers in the language.
- ❖ The Delhi chief minister also briefed Stalin about the new education board, happiness curriculum, deshbhakti curriculum and the entrepreneurship programme — Business Blasters.
- ❖ Kejriwal told his Tamil Nadu counterpart that his government focused on improving school infrastructure in the first few years.



Assembly resolves to merge Chandigarh with Punjab

Synopsis:

- ❖ The Punjab Assembly Friday passed a resolution reiterating state's claim on Chandigarh, the capital it shares jointly with Haryana, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accusing the Centre of "trying to upset this balance" in the administration of the Union Territory and other common assets "through many of its recent actions".
- ❖ The resolution, moved by Mann, was passed by the House by a voice vote in the absence of the two BJP legislators, who had earlier staged a walkout.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ Assembly was called days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that central service rules will apply to the employees of Chandigarh.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification stating that employees of Chandigarh UT administration will get same pay and other benefits as those working under the central government.
- ❖ Under the rules, retirement age of Chandigarh employees will increase from 58 to 60 years and women employees will get childcare leave of two years instead of the current one year.
- ❖ Moving the resolution, Mann asked the Centre to honour the principles of federalism enshrined in the Constitution and not to take any steps which may disturb the balance of the administration of Chandigarh and that of other common assets.
- ❖ "Punjab was reorganised through the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 wherein, the state of Punjab was reorganised into the state of Haryana, Union Territory of Chandigarh and some parts of Punjab were given to the then Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh. Since then, a balance was maintained in the administration of common assets like the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), by way of giving management positions in some proportion to the nominees of the state of Punjab and state of Haryana,.
- ❖ The CM that through many of its recent actions the Centre has been trying to upset this balance.
- ❖ "The Centre has advertised the posts of members of BBMB to officers of all states and central government, whereas these posts were traditionally filled up by officers from Punjab and Haryana.
- ❖ Chandigarh administration has always been managed by officers of Punjab and Haryana in the ratio of 60:40," the resolution
- ❖ recently central government has posted officers from outside to Chandigarh and has introduced central civil service rules for employees of Chandigarh administration, which goes completely against the understanding in the past .



CM Stalin announces textile park in Virudhunagar

Synopsis:

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd (SIPCOT) will set up a mega textile park in Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ Laying the foundation stone for the International Furniture Park in Thoothukudi, Stalin the 1,000-acre textile park will be under the Union government's Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) scheme and a detailed project report will be prepared soon.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ SIPCOT is planning to set up food parks in Theni and Thoothukudi districts.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government had announced that an international furniture park that would attract an investment of Rs 4,500 crore would be set up soon.
- ❖ According to experts, the global furniture market is expected to touch \$750-800 billion by 2025, and while the contribution of China and Vietnam is high, India's share is very small.
- ❖ The Chief Minister the furniture park is being set up on 1,156-acre land in Thoothukudi in which a Belgium company, a global leader in making doors and windows, will set up its unit at an investment of Rs 430 crore.
- ❖ land has been allotted to Hettich India Pvt Ltd and Deceuninck Profiles in the furniture park.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with eight companies that have agreed to set up their units in the furniture park with an investment of Rs 2,845 crore.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government also signed an MoU with 25 companies, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), involving a potential investment of Rs 1,910 crore.
- ❖ Chief Minister Stalin also launched the portal www.tnlip.com wherein owners of large tracts of land can list their properties for sale for industrial projects.

Gender Net Development and Policy Laboratory

Synopsis:

- ❖ "A" Gender Net Development and Policy Laboratory "has been set up on behalf of the Corporation to formulate policies related to the protection of urban women and to monitor the Nirbhaya program for the protection of women. Its service was initiated by the Mayor of the Corporation, R. Priya.





Key Highlights:

- ❖ Gender Net Development and Policy Laboratory and Training Seminar on behalf of Chennai Corporation was held at Ribbon House premises. The Mayor of the Corporation R. Priya participated and inaugurated the seminar
- ❖ The needs of women should be taken into consideration in decision making on urban planning and design globally.
- ❖ Women are less used in urban planning. Not only that but the fact of the matter is that they are often ignored in decision making.
- ❖ Public spaces for the planning and other gender needs of Indian cities should be created to promote equal development for women.
- ❖ “A Gender and Policy Lab has been set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Corporation of Chennai under the “Chennai Municipal Corporation Project” and “Nirbhaya” projects implemented with the assistance of the World Bank.
- ❖ 3 experienced experts have been selected since last month and work is underway for this.
- ❖ The Gender Net Development and Policy Laboratory will monitor the Nirbhaya project, develop the necessary policies and awareness, and work to make public spaces and public transport safer and more accessible to women.
- ❖ Over the next 3 years it will also act as an organization to implement this initiative in many sectors.

Thai Sai Express Project

Synopsis:

- ❖ In Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress leader and Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy yesterday inaugurated the handing over ceremony of 500 vehicles for the free scheme for postpartum women to return home with their infants.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ In Andhra Pradesh, women and infants giving birth in government hospitals
- ❖ To bring children home, 'y. SR, Thai - Say Express' free vehicle service kit has been launched.
- ❖ The project, along with another 500 vehicles, was initiated by Mu Tal Vader Jaganmohan Reddy.
- ❖ An additional 500 vehicles have been added to the Mother-Say Express program for women who have given birth to Jagan to return home with their infants.
- ❖ All the districts of Andhra Pradesh are equipped with medical equipment for Reddy for the use of Vasara period Nmohan.
- ❖ Additional Thai-Sai Express vehicles will now be used to service four-lakh mothers and infants every year.



SPORTS

Adidas unveils official match ball 'Al Rihla'

Synopsis:

- ❖ Al Rihla is the 14 th successive ball that adidas has created for the FIFA World Cup.
- ❖ Adidas reveals Al Rihla – the Official Match Ball for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. It is the 14 th successive ball that adidas has created for the FIFA World Cup, designed to support the game at high speed as it travels faster in flight than any other World Cup ball



Key Highlights:

- ❖ “the journey” in Arabic and has been inspired by the architecture, iconic boats, and the flag of Qatar.
- ❖ The ball was designed with the environment at its heart - all components have been carefully considered, and Al Rihla is the first World Cup ball made using only water-based inks and glues. The bold, vibrant color and graphics set on a pearlescent background
- ❖ The World Cup will be held between November to December 2022, all the teams will know who they face in the group stages of the tournament. A total of 32 teams will compete, out of which 29 are confirmed and three spots still remain empty .
- ❖ Starting its journey in Qatar, Al Rihla will be unveiled alongside World Cup greats, joined on pitch by a diverse mix of talent featuring aspiring woman football players from Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and some young next generation players from Aspire academy.

Pakistan captain sets new record in ODI cricket

Synopsis

- ❖ Pakistan captain Babur Azam holds the record for 15 centuries in the shortest innings in ODI cricket
- ❖ Pakistan win by 6 wickets in 2nd ODI between Australia and Pakistan at Lahore

Key Highlights:

- ❖ Batting first, Australia scored 348 for 8 in 50 overs. Ben McDermott 104, Travis Head 89, Steinis 49.
- ❖ Shaheen Shah Afridi took 4 wickets. Pakistan chased down the target by 349 runs in 49 overs for the loss of 4 wickets. Imam ul Haq scored 106 and Captain Babur Azam 114.





- ❖ Fakar Saman scored 67 and gave a good start. This is the highest number of runs chased by a Pakistan team in ODI cricket. The previous target was 329 against Bangladesh in 2014.
- ❖ Babur Aasam holds the record for most ODI centuries by 15 centuries.
- ❖ Amla has set a previous record of 86 innings in 83 innings.
- ❖ ODI Cricket: 15 Centuries Babur Aasam In Low Innings - 83 Innings Amla - 86 Innings Virat Kohli - 106 Innings Warner - 108 Innings Dhawan - 108 Innings

Women 5 referees in the final

Synopsis

- ❖ For the first time in the history of world cricket, 5 women have been nominated for the final of the Women's World Cup Cricket Tournament which will be suspended on Sunday.



Key Highlights:

- ❖ GS is one of the proudest. . G.S. An Indian named Lad is also involved.
- ❖ Verr is the first female umpire on the IC International Match Committee and the first female umpire to officiate at the One Day Cricket Kettle for Men.
- ❖ The referee will be the main referee for the final between Australia and England.
- ❖ Lauren Agenbach of South Africa and Kim Cotton of New Zealand will officiate (umpires) and Jacqueline Williams of the West Indies will officiate (3rd umpires).
- ❖ Zimbabwe's Langdon Ruser + referee, Pashmi, was the only female referee to officiate the final of the Women's T20 World Cup.
- ❖ Jacqueline Williams became the first female umpire to become the 3rd umpire in men's cricket.
- ❖ The move is known as one of the ICC's initiatives to bring gender equality in cricket.
- ❖ It is noteworthy that 8 out of the 15 match officials serving in this World Cup are women