



# PIB Summary April 2021

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## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE INKS PACK WITH MICROSOFT TO BOOST FARMER'S INCOME

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- Union Agriculture Ministry has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Microsoft to boost farmer's income by reducing input cost and better post-harvest management.
- Microsoft has entered this MOU along with its associate Crop Data Technologies.

### "MADHUKRANTI PORTAL" TO TRACE THE SOURCE OF HONEY AND OTHER BEEHIVE PRODUCTS IS LAUNCHED BY UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

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- This portal is to achieve online traceability of source of honey.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed between National Bee Board (NBB) and Indian Bank.
- Main aim is that "Indian Honey" should meet global standards.

### EXPERT PANEL WILL BE SET UP BY UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR TO EXAMINE 27 BANNED PESTICIDES

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- The panel will examine and consider all the aspects like safety, toxicity and efficacy of the 27 banned pesticides.

## MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS

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### FERTILIZER FIRMS TO SUPPLY 50 TONNES OF MEDICAL OXYGEN PER DAY TO COVID-19 PATIENTS

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- Both public and private sector fertilizer firms will produce medical oxygen for COVID-19 patients, says Minister of State for Fertilizers and Chemicals Mansukh Mandaviya.
- At present IFFCO, Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals (GSFC), Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals (GNFC) and other fertilizer companies are providing oxygen supply to COVID-19 patients.

## MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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### INDIA HAS FINALIZED AIR BUBBLE PACT WITH SRILANKA

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- Union Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told India has finalized air bubble pact with Srilanka.
- Including this India has air bubble pact with 28 countries at present.

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- Air Bubble pact is that between two countries, special passenger flights will be operated under restrictive conditions.
- This will allow eligible passengers to travel between two countries in near future.

### **MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION PERMITS TELANGANA GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER COVID-19 VACCINES THROUGH DRONE**

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- This is the first state to get permission to deliver COVID-19 vaccines through Drone.
- The permission is granted under Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021, to conduct experimental delivery of COVID-19 vaccines using drones within the visual line of sight range.

## **MINISTRY OF COAL**

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### **“COVID MONITORING CELL” SET UP BY MINISTRY OF COAL**

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- This cell is to help officials and their family members in coal industry who have been tested positive for COVID-19.
- This cell will help officials by providing logistics support and other necessary help as far as possible.
- Logistics support will be provided by Coal India.

## **MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**

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### **COMMERCE MINISTRY HAS MADE IMPORT REGISTRATION OF 46 COPPER AND 43 ALUMINIUM ITEMS**

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- This is to reduce import and promote local manufacturing.
- Commerce ministry have already done this for Iron and Steel items.
- Importer have to register not earlier than 60th day and not later than 5th day before the expected date of arrival of import consignment.

## **MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

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### **MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS PERMITS STATE BANK OF INDIA TO MAKESHIFT HOSPITALS FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS**

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- State Bank of India has given Rs. 30 crore for temporary hospitals for COVID-19 patients under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Activity.

## **MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

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### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA WILL TAKE CONSERVATIONAL WORKS AT TAJ MAHAL, AGRA FORT AND FATEHPUR SIKRI PREMISES IN AGRA**

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- Archaeological Survey of India comes under Ministry of Culture.
- Due to COVID-19 initiative all these places are shut till May 15.

### JAMMU& KASHMIR TOURISM PROMOTION EVENT IN SRINAGAR BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE

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- The event named “Tapping the potential of Kashmir: Another Day in Paradise” will take place in Srinagar on April 11- 13.
- This event is headed by Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha and Tourism and Cultural Minister Prahlad Singh Patel.
- Delegates will have technical visit to Tulip garden during this event.

## MINISTER OF DEFENCE

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### OPERATION “CO-JEET” IS LAUNCHED BY ARMED FORCES TO FIGHT COVID-19

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- This operation “CO-JEET” is to strengthen the medical infrastructure and oxygen supply chains and ensure mental wellbeing of the people.
- This operation is provided by all the three wings of the armed forces – The Army, Air Force and Indian Navy.

### “OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU II” IS TO TRANSPORT OXYGEN AND OTHER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FROM ABROAD

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- “Operation Samudra Setu II” is done by Indian Navy with 9 warships.
- Ministry of Defence told that main aim of this mission is to get liquid oxygen from Persian gulf and southeast Asian friendly countries.

### INS AIRAVAT CARRIES OXYGEN FROM SINGAPORE TO INDIA

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- As the part of Operation Samudra Setu II, INS Airavat brings liquid oxygen from Singapore to India.
- It carries 3,650 oxygen cylinders of varying capacities and concentrators.

## MINISTER OF EDUCATION

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### UNION EDUCATION MINISTER, SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL ‘NISHANK’ TODAY LAUNCHED NANOSNIFFER

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- Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ today launched NanoSniffer, the world’s first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD) developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup.
- NanoSniffer has been marketed by Vehant Technologies, a spin-off from a former IIT Delhi incubated startup Kritikal Solutions.

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## MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS & IT

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### “INITIATE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS” IS DONE BY MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT TO PREVENT “FALSE NEWS OR MISINFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19”

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- Social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram have been asked to curb fake news and misinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This advisory campaign is defined under Information Technology Act, 2000.

## MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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### SUPREME COURT ALLOWS VEDANTA TO RUN OXYGEN PLANT IN TAMIL NADU TO TACKLE OXYGEN CRISES

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- Vedanta was closed due to environment pollution caused by copper smelting process.
- Due to National requirement of oxygen for COVID-19 patients, this measure has been taken.

## LIONS IN HYDERABAD ZOO TEST COVID-19

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- All zoological parks, national parks, tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries are closed for visitors to control COVID-19 pandemic by Ministry of Environment Forests and climate Change.
- Hyderabad Zoo with 8 Asiatic lions were tested positive for COVID-19.

## MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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### INDIA AND UK TO BOOST WORK VISAS FOR INDIANS

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- External Affairs Minister S Jaishanker and Home Secretary Priti Patel signed a new migration partnership between two countries.
- Both the country citizens can live and work in one another countries.

## MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

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### OIL PSU'S COMMIT RS. 100 CR FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF BADRINATH DHAM TEMPLE

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- Ministry of Petroleum Dharmendra Pradhan announced to give Rs. 100 crores for the redevelopment of Badrinath Dham Temple.

## MINISTRY OF POWER

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### POWER MINISTRY ASKS ALL THE REGULATORS TO REVISE POWER TARIFF BY APRIL 1 OF EVERY YEAR

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- According to Electricity Act 2003 and the Tariff Policy 2016, there should be timely determination of the adequate power tariffs by the electricity commissions.

### GOVERNMENT ISSUES DRAFT NORMS FOR FLY ASH DISPOSAL BY POWER PLANTS

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- Fly ash user industries for non-compliance will be charged penalties of Rs 1,500 per tonne.
- If the residue is not disposed in time will be charged Rs 1,000 per tonne on power generators.

## MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

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### ARCH OF WORLD'S HIGHEST RAILWAY BRIDGE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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- The 1.3-kilometre-long bridge is constructed at a cost of Rs 1,486 crore to enhance connectivity in the Kashmir Valley.
- This bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project.

### RAILWAYS TO RUN "OXYGEN EXPRESS" TO MEET OXYGEN DEMAND IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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- Railway Ministry is ready for the project "oxygen express" in order to get ready to transport Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and oxygen cylinders across the country.

### RLDA TO DEVELOP MULTI-FUNCTIONAL COMPLEXES AT THREE RAILWAY STATIONS

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- Multi-Functional Complexes (MFC) at Bellary, Sikar and Bharatpur Railway Stations are leased for 45 years by The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).
- Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Railways for the development of Railway land.

## MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

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### VEHICLE LOCATION TRACKING DEVICES MANDATORY FOR OXYGEN CONTAINERS

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- Vehicle Location Tracking (VLT) devices should be fitted for all the oxygen containers, tankers and vehicles made mandatory.
- GPS tracking will help in proper monitoring and protection of these tankers including timely delivery.

## MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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### HAFFKINE INSTITUTE GETS NOD TO PRODUCE COVAXIN

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- Haffkine Institute in Mumbai, Maharashtra has got permission to produce Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.



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## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

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### DISABILITY CERTIFICATES TO BE ISSUED ONLINE IS MADE MANDATORY

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- Disabled people will get “certificate of disability” through online mode using UDID portal with effect from June 1, 2021.
- It is made mandatory for all States and Union territories to issue this certificate through online because people with disabilities were unable to get their certificates due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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### EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK WILL SUPPORT INDIA TO COMBAT COVID-19

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- European Investment Bank announced an emergency fund of EUR 250,000 to India in response to the escalating COVID-19 crisis.
- The donation will be used to improve access to oxygen including oxygen generation plants as well as the procurement of oxygen cylinders urgently needed across India.

### EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK WILL LEND LOAN FOR PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT

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- EIB had approved a loan of 600 million euros to for the construction of the Pune Metro Rail project.
- As the first tranche of 200 million euros was given in 2019.
- Now the, Second tranche of 150 million was given in April 2021.

## MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

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### ITALY LAUNCHES FIRST MEGA FOOD PARK & FOOD PROCESSING UNIT IN INDIA

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- The pilot project “The Mega Food Park” was launched by Italy with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat.
- The project aims to create a synchronous between Agriculture and Industry between two countries and many research and development project ideas be exchanged between two countries.

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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### MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS REMOVES ELECTRONIC RESTRICTIONS

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- The Union home ministry has lifted restrictions on electronic visas for such as e-medical visa, e-business visa, e-medical attendant visa and e-conference visa.,
- This e-visa is available to all the members of the 156 countries.
- But electronic restrictions still prevail on e-tourist visa.

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## PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE

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### NV RAMANA IS APPOINTED AS THE NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA BY PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND

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- Justice Nathulapati Venkata Ramana is the next Chief Justice of India and his tenure is from April 24, 2021 to August 26, 2022.
- He will be succeeding Arvind Bobde.

## PRIME MINISTER OFFICE

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### PRIME MINISTER OFFICE WELCOMES US PRESIDENT JOINING LEAD IT CLIMATE INITIATIVE

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- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is likely to join the Indian-Swedish climate initiative as said by USA.
- It is known as "Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)", will help to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

## NITI AAYOG

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### NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES INDIA ENERGY DASHBOARDS VERSION 2.0

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- With the rise of renewables and other new energy technologies, there is increasing demand between energy supply and demand industry.
- The aim of this dashboard is to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.

## AYUSH

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### ANTIVIRAL DRUG 'CLEVIRA' IS USED FOR TREATING MILD TO MODERATE COVID-19 PATIENTS

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- Clevira, a drug primarily used to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 cases.
- It is primarily used for treating dengue.
- Liver and kidney are not affected by this drug.